



Rotary Friendship Exchange





What is Friendship Exchange?

Friendship Exchange is an international exchange program for Rotarians and their families that provides participants with the opportunity to experience other cultures by staying in the homes of Rotarians in other countries.





Friendship Exchange Goals



- Advance international understanding and peace through personal contact across borders.
- Meet Rotarians from other countries and learn about their culture firsthand
- Arrange international service projects directly with Rotarians in another country
- Develop long-lasting club relationships



Building a Friendship Exchange

- Interested Rotarians must apply through their club president, who will inform them if their district participates in the program.
- District chairs work with their counterparts around the world to organize all aspects of exchanges.
- RI produces a list of district Friendship Exchange chairs on a quarterly basis to help with communication.





Types of Exchanges

Visitor Program

- Individual Rotarians, who may be accompanied by family members, spend a few days in the home of a Rotarian in another country.

Team Program

- Rotarian couples, typically four to six, visit several communities in a host district for up to one month.

Uni-vocational

- Host and guest Rotarians of the same occupation observe how their job is done in other countries.



Friendship Exchange Guidelines

- It is expected that all exchanges be reciprocal.
- Friendship Exchanges may take place at any time during the year that is agreeable to the clubs and districts involved.
- Reciprocal visits may take place during the same year or in the following year.
- The length of stay for participants in the visitor program is several (three or four) days, while those in the team program visit several communities in the host district for period of up to four weeks.
- In all cases, guests are expected to pay their travel and personal expenses. Hosts are to provide housing, meals, and sightseeing opportunities. Variations from this standard are only at the host family's discretion and should not be requested or expected.



Itineraries

Exchanges incorporate a wide array of social events, local activities, and leisure time. Each itinerary is different but will most likely include attending a Rotary meeting or gathering in the host district.





District Chair Responsibilities

- Promote the program and encourage participation within the district.
- Help plan itineraries for participants.
- Maintain records on exchange participants and potential hosts for future exchanges.
- Communicate with other district chairs and clubs when developing Friendship Exchanges.
- Submit and update district profiles on the RFE Matching Board.



Online Resources

For general program information, please go to www.rotary.org > Service and Fellowship > Rotary Friendship Exchange.

On the Web site, you may access the following resources:

- [Rotary Friendship Exchange Handbook](#)
- [Rotary Friendship Exchange Matching Board](#)
- [Building Cultural Awareness](#)



Contact RI Staff

**Rotary International
Programs & Presidential Initiatives Section**
Phone: 1-847-866-3460
Fax: 1-847-556-2182
E-mail: friendshipexchange@rotary.org

**Rotary International
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201-3698
USA**