

TOP TEN REASONS TO APPLY FOR GSE PROGRAM TRAVELING TO AUSTRIA, SLOVENIA and CROATIA -adapted from an article written by District Governor 2006-07 and Past GSE Team Leader Christine Montan

I was blessed to have been selected as the GSE Team Leader in 1999 to Denmark. It is an experience I will be thankful for all the days of my life. It changed my life for the better in many and varied ways, and I thank all the District 5300 Rotarians who, through their donations to the Rotary Foundation, make Group Study Exchange possible.

Now, you too have this opportunity. The District is seeking qualified non-Rotarians who are interested and able to travel to Rotary District 1910 in Central Europe next Spring. Tentative travel dates are May 1, 2007 through May 31, 2007. District 1910 encompasses eastern Austria, Croatia, Slovenia and part of Bosnia/Herzegovina - a beautiful, culturally rich area.

Why should you apply for this opportunity? Well, how about these TOP TEN reasons for starters?

1. Opportunity to work with and meet local business, educational and community leaders.
2. Opportunity to broaden your professional, cultural and leadership experience.
3. Opportunity to travel internationally -have you been to this part of world, not so many years ago it was under Communist rule? The cost of travel is covered by the Rotary Foundation and you stay in the homes of Rotarians. The itinerary covers social/cultural, economic, business, agricultural and government visits, so you go there as a traveler and ambassador, not just a tourist.
4. Opportunity to learn/expand your perspectives - cultural, social, government, business - traveling like an ambassador/honored guest in another country and making friends in every stop, your perspective is changed - for the better. It is a wonderful chance to really learn as you live another culture and in this case - four very different cultures!
5. Opportunity to help foster international relations by engaging political, business, cultural, and educational leaders in an exchange of experiences.
6. Opportunity to work with top professionals from your own profession.
7. Opportunity to see how your profession is practiced overseas - Individual vocational visits are planned as part of your itinerary, so you make business contacts and learn about how your profession is practiced in these countries. Your employer may appreciate and support this activity.

8. Opportunity to go where District 5300 has only gone once before - this is the second year of the first ever exchange with these former Eastern European Socialist and Communist countries, so it is a rare opportunity to be among the first.

9. Opportunity to work with Rotarians from around the District geographically that serves on the Committee. You make new friends, both here and abroad - with members of the D 1910 GSE Committee and your host families.

10. Opportunity to change your life - Make the decision to do something extraordinary with your time and talents.

The GSE webpage at www.district5300.org has more information and links to the District 1910 website for additional information. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pamela Hayes, Team Leader 626-337-6200 or Greg Custer, GSE Chair at 626-441-5111.

The deadline is August 25, 2006 to complete and submit the application. Interviews will be held in Victorville on September 16th.

Applications can be found at the District Website.