

ROTARY AND OPEN WORLD

Rotary clubs in the United States have a unique international and vocational service opportunity through Open World. Clubs host a small delegation of current and future leaders from Russia, Ukraine, and other Eurasian countries. Clubs prepare a professional program related to U.S. business, community, and civic life, and host delegates in their homes.

These visits help develop a network of leaders who understand how American communities tackle contemporary issues.

Since the program began in 1999, Rotary clubs in 48 states and the District of Columbia have hosted 3,270 Open World participants, roughly 13 percent of all 25,000 participants.

“Rotary actively promotes world peace and understanding, and the Open World program is an excellent vehicle to accomplish this.”

— Rotary Club of Parker
Colorado

BE A HOST

We can help your club or district identify delegates to host. Send your request, including relevant projects you're working on and the participant countries you'd like to work with, to openworldprogram@rotary.org.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

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Rotary



OPEN WORLD
LEADERSHIP CENTER



OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

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OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

The Open World program brings current and future leaders from post-Soviet countries to the United States. Delegates complete an intensive, short-term program that relates to their professional or civic work. Observing their professional counterparts in the U.S., they get a firsthand look at the American system of democracy and free enterprise.

Rotary clubs host Open World delegates in their homes. Through this cultural exchange, delegates experience American family and community life, and the Rotary hosts broaden their international understanding.

Sponsored by Congress, Open World emphasizes accountability, transparency, and citizen involvement in government. These visits help develop a network of leaders who understand how American communities tackle contemporary issues.

“Hosting the delegation was the first time most of our members got to know the warm and friendly people of Russia. We’re all eager to participate in the Open World program again!”

— Rotary Club of New Tampa
Florida

ROTARY HOSTS

Rotary clubs and districts prepare an eight-day program that’s part professional and part cultural.

Hosts design a program around the delegation’s civic theme, such as accountable governance, young professionals, or social issues. Typical activities include touring schools or hospitals, observing jury selection, sitting in on newspaper editorial meetings, and following political candidates on the campaign trail.

They also arrange cultural activities, such as museum visits and concerts, and other events where delegates and hosts can socialize and get to know each other.

Each six-member delegation visits the U.S. for 10 days, two in Washington, D.C., and eight in the host community. Rotary members provide accommodations, local transportation, and meals for delegates. Rotary covers most hosting expenses.



DELEGATES

Delegates come from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. Men and women are equally represented, and the average age is 37.

Open World has 25,000 alumni and a network of 7,900 host families in more than 2,100 communities throughout the United States.