

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TEAM LEADER PROFILE

Group Study Exchange is a flagship programme of Rotary Foundation promoting international understanding and vocational experience for young businessmen and women across the world.

The role of GSE Team Leader is a prestigious appointment as the District Governors representative carrying with it considerable responsibility for the success of the exchange.

There is no 'template' for the perfect Team Leader but a wide range of inter-personal skills will obviously be necessary to bring out the best in the chosen Team.

The Team Leader should have a good understanding of the principles of Rotary and the framework of the 4 Way Test, but it is emphasised that it is not necessary to have held any previous Club or District Office.

The Team Leader should be able to conduct themselves with dignity and display respect for the selected Team members and when abroad the hosts and the culture of the host country.

The dynamics of the entire Team will critical to the success of the exchange. The Team Leader should be able to develop a good rapport with all the Team Members. It is recommended by Rotary Foundation (but not mandatory) that the Team Leader should not be more than 20 years older than the Team. (Team members will generally be around 30 years old although the permitted age range is 25 to 40.)

The Team Leader should be able to create an environment, before and during the exchange, for members of the Team to grow and develop as individuals. Skills relating to

personnel coaching, mentoring and team building will be of considerable benefit in this regard.

The Team Leader will need to be 'all things to all people':- well organised, diplomatic, caring, approachable, guide, good at liaison and planning, a public speaker with good presentation skills.

Before the Team leaves for North Carolina it will be necessary to instigate a concerted programme of orientation and training to ensure that the objectives of the exchange are clearly understood and the individuals are well prepared.

The orientation programme will be orchestrated by the Team Leader with guidance from the GSE committee. Previous experience suggest that regular Team meetings will be necessary following completion of the Team selection November 19th 2006 and the leaving date to North Carolina 17th March 2007 (tbc). Such meetings have previously been held at a location central to all Team members and coordinated to meet work commitments. It is anticipated that some 8-10 such meetings would be ideal.

A Group Study Exchange is NOT a holiday. It is hard work and physically demanding - all participants will need to be enthusiastic, energetic, alert and adaptable.

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Further information is available in the booklet "Group Study Exchange – Programme Guide for Rotarians" available from the RI download centre document:-

<http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/165en.pdf>

Application form:- <http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/260en.pdf>