

## Cuba Cultural Exchange

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APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28TH**

# Sowing & Watering the Seeds of Rotary in Cuba Siembra y Riego de las Semillas de Rotary en Cuba District 7780 Cultural Exchange 2016-2017 with Cuba

District 7780 Rotarians are invited to apply to take part in a vocational/cultural exchange with Cuba. The team will travel to the island for about a week during the late Spring/early Summer, probably late May - early June. We are looking for Rotarians with an interest in water sanitation and culture, broadly defined (history, art, literature, music, performing arts, etc.) and in learning more about reestablishing ties between the United States and Cuba. The team will install water filtration systems and provide hands on training for Cubans while doing so. Networking will also be done to establish relationships among the communities that have District filtration systems, in order to allow for best practices to be shared and future install sites to be identified. Spouses and friends of Rotarians may also apply. Rotary continues to make strides in reestablishing a presence in Cuba on an international level and District 7780 will be creating relationships that will be valuable both before and after ties are officially restored. While in Cuba, the team will be immersed in the local culture. Of greatest importance is an openness and willingness to learn- through first-hand and hands-on experiences - about the rich history and culture of Cuba. It is also key to be flexible and able to adjust to changes in plan. Infrastructure is still such that transportation and therefore travel plans and timing, once in-country may change at a moment's notice. The team will return to District 7780 to share their experiences at our District Assembly during the 2017-2018 year. This is to be an exchange but will work in reverse from other District 7780 experiences; a guest from Cuba will be attending our District Conference, May 19th-21st.

A \$1,500 travel allocation will be provided for each participant to cover airfare and some costs while in Cuba. Due to the nature of the Visa we must travel under, team members will stay in a combination of conference centers and hotels of which some cost to the travelers along with incidentals should be anticipated. Funding for the exchange is provided by our Rotary Foundation District Grant.

Completed applications, signed by a club president, must be received by February 28th. Interviews will be scheduled mid-March. Due to the nature of the trip the selection committee will take special consideration of those applicants that have some level of fluency in Spanish, have experience in water filtration systems and have not participated on a District service trip in recent years. Complete your application today to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime Rotary opportunity to make an important contribution to the Cuban people by providing a means for cleaner water while establishing wonderful friendships that will impact your life in the future.