**Rotary Friendship Exchange 2026 Overview**

**District 5580 to have a Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) with Croatia.**

In May 2026 a team of 5 couples from District 5580 will be traveling to Croatia to stay with host Rotarian families and a team from Croatia will be visiting District 5580 in September 2026.

The Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) program provides a means for Rotarians to visit other Districts where they will be hosted by fellow Rotarians with food, lodging and transportation and then reciprocating by hosting Rotarians from the other District. The participating Districts organize the exchanges through their own RFE committees. The intent is to make the exchanges fun and inexpensive for all concerned.

A tentative itinerary for the inbound Croats has been drafted. They will arrive in Thunder Bay and leave from Fargo with stops in Duluth, Bemidji, and Detroit Lakes. Host families are needed for each of these locations.

A team of Rotarians from District 5580 will in turn visit the Croatia District in May 2026. This team has not yet been selected, but one of the considerations in selecting team members will be whether they can host visiting RFE team members. The outbound team from District 5580 will have an amazing experience in Croatia. When the RFE visit is concluded, team members can either return home or continue their European travels. The major cost in participating in an RFE visit is airfare. The time period for the visit is approximately two weeks.

The RFE committee will be announcing a process for selecting the outbound team and will provide an application form to any interested Rotarian through the District 5580 website.

The RFE committee from District 5580 is Mike Cochran (chair), Keith Brokke, Debra Warner, Laurie Lewandowski, Donna Johnson, John Johnson, Kay Parries, Dave Long, Jan Murtha, Gary Johnson, Krysta Logozzo Daniele and Jill Zachary. Please let them know if you have questions or are interested in being a team member or hosting (if you live in one of the areas that will be visited by the Croats).