District 7080
Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE)

RFE Background Information

Although each district does it a little differently, District 7080 follows the guidelines below. For full description, please visit https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/friendship-exchange

- The Chair of the District RFE Committee communicates with and selects potential districts to exchange with.

- Once a district is chosen to partner with, the RFE committee selects three cluster/clubs to participate. The selection is determined by when the cluster/club last participated in an RFE. Team Leader applications will be invited from any cluster/club. As the RFE committee expands the participation, participating cluster/club will be a mix of new and more experienced until all the clusters have experienced at least one exchange.

- Once the exchange is confirmed, and a selected individual cancels for whatever reason, is still obligated to host unless there is a prior agreement to host at a future exchange. Exceptions will be reviewed individually.

- Participants fund all the expenses for the exchange such as the cost of flight(s), lunches, some dinners, and all other personal expenses. Depending on how the host district functions, you may also be responsible for part of local transportation, such as trains, buses, etc. The exception would be the cost of breakfast as it is provided by the host families

- Each participant will contribute a small amount of money for unexpected incidentals during the drip. This will be approximately $100.00 per person. Any unused amount will be returned to the participants, once the trip is over. The team leader or his/her designate is responsible for keeping track of any use of this funds during the trip.

- Couples or singles are welcome to participate.

- All Rotarians are invited along with their partners. Partners do not have to be Rotarians. Friends of Rotary may also apply through their local Club if spaces are available.

- Youth >18 years old can also be a part of RFE, and will be considered on a case by case basis by the RFE Committee and the host country, as per Rotary District Youth Protection Policy. Please inquire.

- Generally a RFE lasts about 1-2 weeks.

- The team is made up of 8-10 participants, and includes a team leader.

- Each participant is responsible for his/her travel visa and immunization, if required.
- The team lands at the predetermined date in the host country. From there the team is hosted by local Rotarians.
- If you don't travel with the team, please make sure your arrival and departure times are within 2 hours of arrival and departure times of the team to minimize multiple trips to the airport.
- The RFE team is home stayed, usually changing host homes every few days. Several Rotary Clubs and communities are visited.
- The pace is usually brisk. Get up in the morning, perhaps tour a Rotary project, and then maybe see a point of interest or two. In the evening there may be a Rotary meeting or a Rotary hosted party.
- You will travel with a group and your tour will be mapped out by the hosts. We will give input to preferences but generally what they plan is what we do.
- The host Rotarians show their guests local sights of interest, parks, museums, and things they are proud of. Rotary projects may be toured.
- The hosts provide lodging and breakfast meals. Transportation within the district is arranged by the hosts.
- Welcome and farewell dinners/supper expenses maybe covered by the host district participants and other Rotarians that wish to participate in the dinners.
- While on an outbound RFE, you are expected to attend and participate fully at all hosted events. As the host, you are also expected to attend and participate fully with the guests.
- The visiting Team is asked to provide a short presentation at the Hosts' Rotary meetings.
- The visit is then reciprocated with the foreign district visiting our district.
- Clubs, fellowships and individuals are welcome to arrange private exchanges, but RFE sanctioned exchanges take precedent in order to avoid scheduling, resources and hosting conflicts

Benefits:

- Broaden international understanding
- Promote world peace
- Build enduring friendships

- Live "with the locals" and to learn about a region’s people, food, languages, customs, and history
- Certainly cost efficient.
- Gain opportunities for active project involvement and support
- Find partners for grants
- Expand your Rotary knowledge.
- See parts of the world you may otherwise never see.