

Goals and Objectives

The program aims to forge bonds of friendship and promote understanding by opening up new avenues of dialogue between U.S. political and civic leaders and Russian delegates, whose diverse occupational backgrounds have included first-time mayors, legislators, small-business advocates, nonprofit directors, and high-court judges.

Each participating Rotary club hosts a group of six participants (five delegates and one facilitator) and develops a program of study that allows them to learn more about specific aspects of American life. The small size of the delegation fosters meaningful interaction between participants and their counterparts in the host community. Open World participants stay in volunteers' homes, providing an introduction to American family and community life. The American hosts, in turn, have the opportunity to learn about the new Russia from those helping to shape it.

Each intensive, short-term visit focuses on a specific theme related to the delegates' professional or civic work and exposes them to ideas and practices they can adapt to their own situations. Typical activities include touring schools or hospitals, observing jury selection, sitting in on newspaper editorial meetings, and following political candidates on the campaign trail. Participants learn about the responsibilities of and the interrelationships between the three branches of the U.S. government at the federal, state, and local levels through hands-on experience, direct observation, and substantive dialogue with their American professional counterparts.



Open World Program Alumni

Open World conducts an extensive and active alumni program by supporting conferences, seminars, and other follow-up activities in Russia for program participants. Twelve Open World alumni conferences have been sponsored throughout Russia, bringing together more than 500 program alumni.

RI Staff Assistance

RI's Open World program officer can help you identify participants for your club or district program. Send requests, including the types of projects you're working on and the participant countries you're interested in working with, to openworld@rotary.org.

Open World Program
RI Programs Division
Rotary International
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201-3698 USA
Phone: 847-866-3381
E-mail: openworld@rotary.org

www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/Fellowship/OpenWorld/Pages/ridefault.aspx



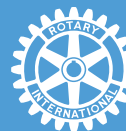
Open World Program



Open World Program

Congress established the Open World Program in 1999 to enhance understanding between the United States and Russia by giving emerging Russian leaders a firsthand look at the U.S. political system, business environment, and community life. Managed by the Open World Leadership Center, an independent federal agency headquartered at the Library of Congress, the program has since expanded to include other post-Soviet states and has enabled more than 13,000 current and future leaders from all 85 regions of Russia to observe and experience the many aspects of American democracy firsthand.

Since its inception, the Open World Program has been made available to U.S. Rotary clubs and districts through a grant secured by Rotary International. Clubs in 44 states and the District of Columbia have hosted over 2,500 Open World participants.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL®

Open World Expansion Countries

The program is also beginning to work with Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Ukraine. Collaborating with Rotary clubs in these countries will help further development of the Rotary movement there. If your district or club is working with these countries on other projects, or is interested in doing so, contact RI staff at openworld@rotary.org.

Host Responsibilities

Host clubs and districts have the following responsibilities:

- Providing accommodations for the delegation for eight days and nights
- Arranging for local transportation and meals
- Hiring a professional interpreter
- Preparing an eight-day program that reflects the delegation's civic theme and includes other activities that meet program objectives

- Preparing and submitting program materials before and after the visit, including:
Community profile, Draft agenda, Host family profiles, Interpreter's résumé, Final agenda, Host narrative report and other final report materials, Expense reimbursement forms

The host program should feature:

- Professional and civic meetings, training seminars, tours, or other activities that demonstrate the working of a civil society, the free enterprise system, and the U.S. government (minimum of 32 hours)
- Cultural activities, such as museum visits, picnics, sporting events, and concerts (to be arranged during the evenings and on weekends)
- Opportunities for social interaction and the sharing of ideas and information between Open World participants and members of their American host community

Host districts or clubs may schedule the delegation visit at their convenience but must give notice as early as possible (at least 12 weeks before the delegation's arrival). Funds are available from RI to offset club hosting expenses, such as transportation, meals, and interpreter services.

Civic Program Themes

The Open World Leadership Center selects programming themes for each year. The core themes are accountable governance, rule of law, and social issues (focusing on education, health care, and social services).

Participating Rotary clubs and districts should identify a civic theme and an area of focus, or subtheme, around which to build a local program. Open World will do its best to find the right delegates, but host teams should try to be flexible with respect to the preferences of interested participants.



Specialized Groups and Niche-nominations

The Open World Program supports existing relationships between U.S. Rotary clubs and Rotary clubs or other organizations in the Open World Program countries. RI can nominate Open World participants through Rotary clubs or other organizations in countries of your interest.

In 2007, for example, Rotary host clubs requested Open World participants from particular locations in Russia and with specific interests. Rotary clubs in Russia assisted with nominations for general and specialized-theme groups, including:

- Three social issues groups focused on hospice care — two delegations from children's hospices in St. Petersburg and Krasnodar and one mixed group of participants from Russian hospices — were hosted by the Rotary clubs of Longmont, Colorado, and Annapolis and Parole, Maryland.
- An accountable governance group from Saratov and Khabarovsk, focused on national parks, was hosted by the Rotary Club of Kemmerer, Wyoming.
- An accountable governance group from Vladivostok, focused on environmental management, was hosted by the Rotary Club of Tacoma, Washington.
- A social issues group, focused on health fairs, was hosted by the Rotary Club of Homer-Kachemak Bay, Alaska.

Ongoing Results and Benefits

The Open World Leadership Center evaluates the results of Open World visits by examining the following post-visit indicators:

1. **Benefits to Americans** — All parties are learning from one another, and information is flowing in more than one direction.
2. **Partnerships** — An American organization partners with a Russian organization on a joint project or starts an affiliate in Russia.
3. **Projects** — A Russian delegate returns home and implements an idea inspired by the Open World experience.
4. **Multipliers** — A delegate returns to Russia and shares his/her new knowledge with others, thereby “multiplying” the Open World experience.
5. **Reciprocal visits** — Americans associated with the Open World hosting experience visit Russia and meet with Open World alumni or work on an Open World-inspired project.

6. **Press coverage** — A delegation's U.S. visit is covered by local broadcast or print media.

7. **Contributions** — In-kind (in hours or material goods) or cash donations result from the visit.

8. **Professional advancement** — Alumni credit their Open World experience with contributing to job promotions or other career enhancements.

Host districts or clubs should notify RI about any results they learn of from their delegates.

