

Short-Term International Experience for District 5630 Students:

Preamble: A global experience at a young age, even in the short term, has been shown to yield many benefits¹. Such an experience leads to increased confidence among the youth who experience such global experience. They also show a tolerance for ambiguity, faster intellectual maturation, an increase in their interest in academic study, greater understanding of one's own cultural values and biases, a more sophisticated way of looking at the world, and a greater respect for racial, ethnic, and cultural differences. Research has also revealed that these positive impacts are lasting, and that such an experience is also likely to influence their participation in community organizations. Their cultural development through an international experience endures. The students cultivate lifelong friendships with host-country Rotarians, Interactors, and Rotaractors.

Such international learning opportunities for formative development of high school and early college students, with so many positive outcomes, are few and far between in Western Nebraska. The need among our youth to develop a holistic view of the world and the disadvantaged, grasp international issues, and appreciate the interconnectedness of the world is most pressing. Furthermore, the modifications to their attitudes, and increased global awareness and personal development will contribute to their employability. This proposal is an attempt to close this gap and enhance the growth of our youth in the district as well as making it more likely that they will become life-long members of Rotary and engage at a deeper level in community service.

The concept: To send two students from Rotary District 5630, each year in July-August, to be hosted by Rotarians outside the US for up to 4 weeks, for engaging in an international humanitarian project in a less-developed country, and developing global awareness of community needs, especially in Rotary's six areas of focus. The District is requested to allocate \$4,000 (DDF) per year (\$2,000 per student) for travel, health, and related-insurance for the duration of the grant period.

PY 2014-2015 Proposal

Send two students to District 3190 in India².

Minimum Criteria: District 5630 (Western Nebraska):

1. In a high school in Rotary District 5630 or a college student (who graduated for a HS in Rotary District 5630)
2. 18 – 23 years of age
3. A letter of recommendation from the Principal or faculty at their college or the (most current) employer.
4. Enrolled or planning to enroll in post-secondary education.
5. The applicant must be sponsored by a Rotary club from District 5630
6. Applicant is NOT directly related to a Rotarian³

¹ Dwyer, M. M. (2004). More Is Better: The Impact of Study Abroad Program Duration. *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*, 10, 151-163.

² District 5630 and district 3190 have just completed a collaborative \$92,000 Global Grant project in India and have excellent working and personal relationships with each other. Hence the choice.

³ 'Directly related' means 'Children or grandchildren by blood or legal adoption of current Rotarians and honorary Rotarians.'

Minimum Criteria: District 3190 (India):

1. Students selected must be male students.
2. Visitors must have had all necessary vaccinations and inoculations required for visit to India, and have necessary health insurance.
3. Visitors' commit to personal costs beyond what can reasonably be expected of their Rotarian host families and the district (boarding and food).
4. Students are expected to embrace Rotary's spirit of volunteerism and engage in volunteer activities.

Sponsoring Club's responsibilities:

1. Pay for student's visa to the country of visit
2. Help with pre-departure mandatory face-to-face orientation of the selected student(s)
3. The club will forward one candidate only to the selection committee.

Selected student's responsibilities:

1. Attend the required mandatory pre-departure orientation with their parents.
2. Pay for passport, if applicant does not have a valid one.
3. Keep passport validity for at least six months after end of travel.
4. Have all necessary vaccinations completed prior to travel as recommended by CDC

Selected student's commitments to District 5630:

1. Be an exceptional ambassador for Nebraska and R.I district 5630
2. On return, present their experiences to the sponsoring club and district leadership, at the minimum.
3. Engage in a 'humanitarian service' in the host district

Required:

- Back ground checks of selected students
- Students shall stay with Rotarian families

Deadlines:

1. Application due to sponsoring club no later April 25, 2014.
2. Club to forward their selection to the District by May 2, 2014
3. Final selection by the District Foundation Scholarship Committee by May 23, 2014.

Grant Title

"District sponsored travel grant to access needs and opportunities for projects related to education in Bangalore, India". In partnership with The Rotary Club of Bangalore West in District 3190 India.