

# Rotary International Cultural Exchange Team

## FRANCE

Rotary International seeks young professionals for cultural exchange team to France

*September 21, 2007* – Are you a young professional with a desire to experience the culture and people of France? Would you like to spend an expense-free month in France meeting and living with influential French business representatives and dignitaries?

The Greater Houston area Rotary District 5890 ([www.rotary5890.org](http://www.rotary5890.org)) is seeking applicants to be members of a Group Study Exchange (GSE) team that will be traveling to Rotary District 1700 in Southern France from March 5 to April 5, 2008. The team will consist of four young professionals from various vocational backgrounds and will be led by a District 5890 Rotarian. All GSE team members' expenses (travel, accommodation and meals) will be paid for by Rotary International. The GSE team will reside and board with French Rotarians and their families during the exchange trip.

"We are delighted to be able to offer this chance-of-a-lifetime experience to Houston young adults," said Mike Dennard, Rotary District 5890 GSE co-coordinator. "Having the opportunity to become close friends with French professionals, to stay in their homes and live with their families is a rare and exciting prospect. Most GSE team members will find that the French people they meet during this experience will provide them with a new network for lifelong friendships and business relationships. Please note that we seek to inform prospective team members' employers of the benefits of the GSE program so that GSE team members can take a month from their profession and participate in this valuable exchange program."

To be eligible, applicants must be between the ages of 25 and 40, currently employed, have clearance to take time from their profession, have time to participate in the preparation and language training activities, reside in District 5890, be a U.S. citizen, and be physically and mentally prepared for the rigorous GSE itinerary and travel schedule. Also, applicants may NOT be direct relatives of Rotarians.

The GSE team will have a varied travel itinerary that will include cultural and historical visits, participation in French Rotary activities and meetings with French professionals who share the GSE team member's vocation. The GSE team members will make several team presentations to host French Rotary Clubs describing facts about Houston and their personal life in Texas. Upon return, GSE team members will be invited to share their experiences at Rotary Clubs and other community organizations.

The "Group Study Exchange Team Member" application forms may be found online at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). Specific details about applying for and participating in the GSE program and other Rotary opportunities are at the Rotary website.

Your application is due by October 24, 2007. It must be submitted to Mike Dennard, 940 Gemini Suite 250, Houston, TX 77058. You will be required to participate in a reception for applicants (by yourself, please) at 7 p.m. on Friday, 26 October. Your interview will be conducted during the day on Saturday, October 27. For more information contact Mike Dennard at 281.486.0063 or [Michael-Dennard@UTULSA.edu](mailto:Michael-Dennard@UTULSA.edu).

Rotary International is a global organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards and build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 30,000 clubs in 168 countries.