

Rotary

Districts
6900, 6910, 6920



GRSP

GEORGIA ROTARY
STUDENT PROGRAM

VISION

Georgia Student Rotary Program's vision is
to develop leaders who promote
understanding and peace around the World.

www.grsp.org





Celebrating 76 Years

Founded



William A. Watt (PDG, RC of Thomasville) founded GRSP in 1946 with belief that “Peace through Understanding” would be possible if students from other countries came to Georgia to study and develop a better understanding of their fellowman.

Mission



GRSP provides scholarships to advance cultural understanding and social experiences through friendship, develops potential global leaders, and expands the ideals of Rotary around the world.

Students

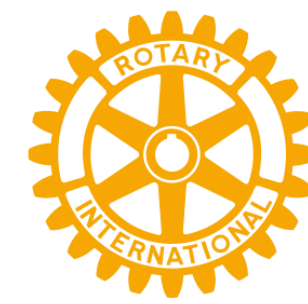


The first four students arrived in 1947 for one-year of undergraduate study. From August to May, students attend one of 25 colleges and universities in state, form relationships with Rotarians, clubs and families and return to their countries as ambassadors.



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FUNDING for GRSP

Rotary International - \$0



Student

Roundtrip Airfare, Spending Money, Medical Insurance and Any Applicable Federal Income Tax.



Host Family/Host Club

Housing Essentials, Student Weekend Transportation, District Conference and Club Meetings plus 2/3 College Expenses.



GRSP Sponsorship

GRSP Foundation pays up to \$6,000 of the costs for each student. This is 1/3 of the average cost of college expenses for sponsoring a standard student.



Voluntary Contributions to the GRSP Foundation

Club members and others may make contributions to the GRSP Foundation directly by mail or at www.grsp.org. Increasing the value of the endowment allows the GRSP Foundation to reduce the cost for clubs, support students and sustain the program.



Two Ways to Participate:

- ✓ **STANDARD SELECTION**
- ✓ **DIRECT COLLEGE SELECTION**

Funds are sent directly to the institution and designated and applied to the student's account.
Rotarians serve as host families.

✓ **ALL GRSP Scholars Must:**

- Be between 18 and 25 Years of Age
- Not Have Previously Studied in the U.S. for Longer than 4 months.
- Not be Married, or Engaged to be Married.
- Not Hold Dual U.S. Citizenship.

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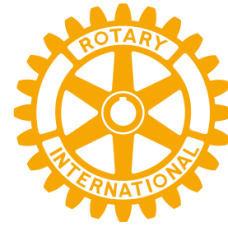
STANDARD SELECTION

- Nominated by Rotary Club in home country.
- Submit applications through GRSP website.
- Clubs complete GRSP commitment sheets.
- Selected students offered scholarship in January for tuition, fees, room and board plus book allowance.
- Students must pay their transportation, insurance, spending money plus pay any taxes imposed on the scholarship money by the US Government.
- Scholarship agreement is accepted, GRSP aids student with college admissions process.
- Students arrive in August for Conclave and to begin classes.





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DIRECT COLLEGE SELECTION

- **Club selects a Georgia college or university partner to identify an already accepted international student.**
- **Club determines scholarship amount, which is matched up to the maximum allotment by GRSP. This is a partial scholarship.**
- **College or university posts scholarship criteria and amount on website and emails students to apply for the institution's GRSP scholarship.**
- **Prospect applies through GRSP website and is selected by sponsoring Rotary Club.**
- **Student accepts scholarship agreement.**
- **Student arrives in August for Conclave and to begin classes.**

Southern Hospitality

GRSP Host Families and Clubs Share {Optional} Conclave Weekends featuring Sweet Tea, Sights and Sounds of the South... including "Ya'll Come Back Now..."



GRSP Builds Goodwill and Better Friendships



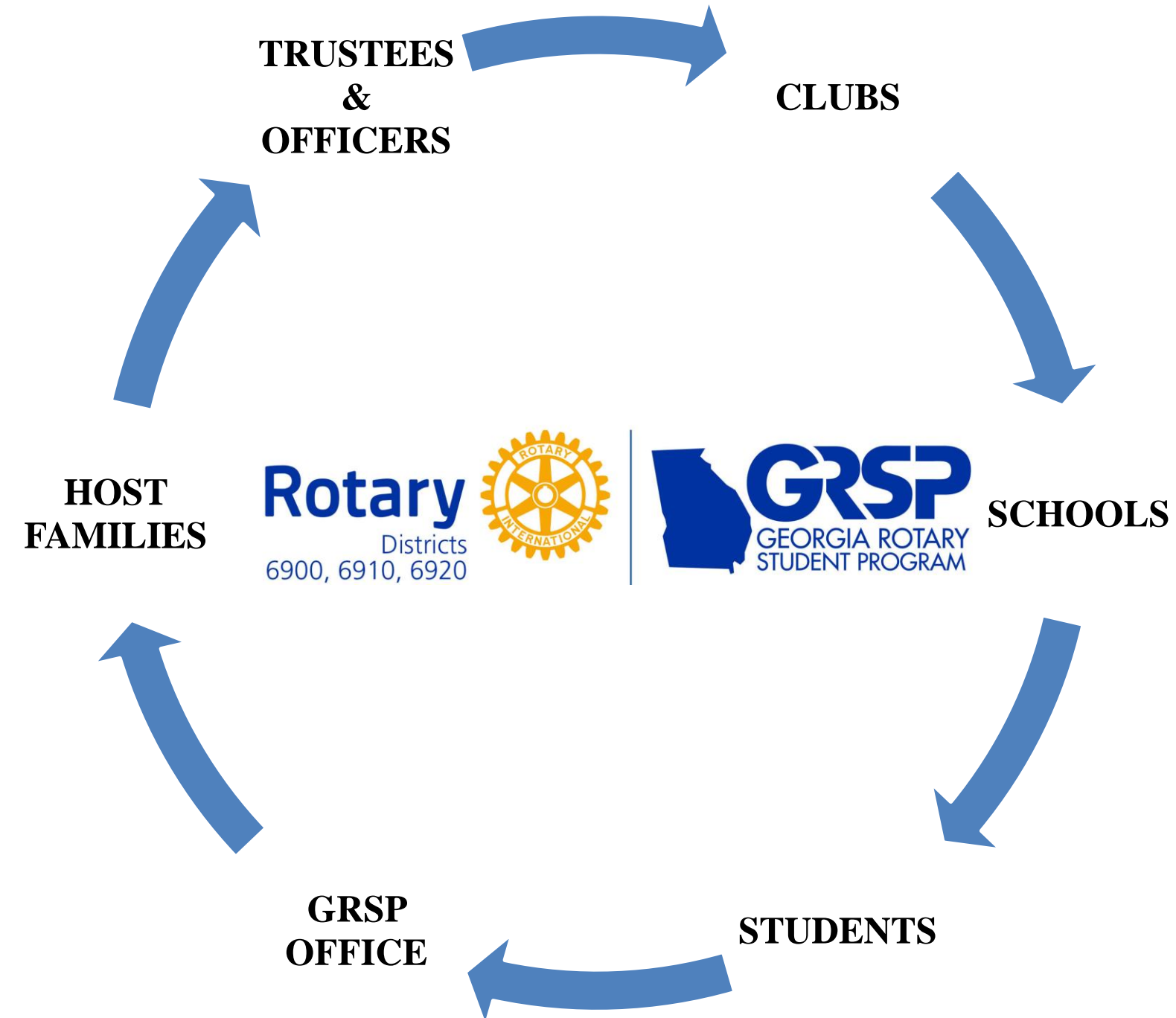
GRSP Columbia area
Columbia, GA
Guest of Mike Newcome
6920 Macon
S

GRSP Columbia area
Columbia, GA
Bebe Reichert
Guest of Albert Reichert
6920 Macon
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TIPS FOR HOST FAMILIES

GRSP

It takes all of us working together to make GRSP Successful.



Pre-Arrival

Meet your student and her/his family on Zoom or FaceTime, etc. You will probably do this more than once.

Make sure your student arrives in time for New Student Orientation at the university (this is usually mandatory). Some universities require the new students to register for orientation. Check with the university and your Trustee.

Be sure that the student understands that she/he is required to live in on-campus housing.

Notify your Trustee and the GRSP Office of your student's travel and arrival information.

Pre-Arrival

Make sure your students understands that she/he must have health insurance coverage that meets the university's requirements. In 99% of cases, the students will need to purchase the insurance provided through the university. The student will need to budget around \$2,700 for 2022-2023. It is not for the Trustee and Host Family to try to “negotiate” an insurance waiver with the university.

Coordinate with your Trustee and other Rotarians to welcome your student when she/he arrives at Atlanta Airport. Make sure the student can easily contact you should her/his travel be delayed.

Pre-Arrival

Plan to attend the Conclave in August with your student. Go to www.grsp.org to register and make your hotel reservations. (You do not need to register your student).

- August 19-20, 2023 – Legacy Lodge, Lake Lanier Islands

Make a button for your student for your club meetings.

Post-Arrival

Establish early that Rotary takes precedence over all other activities.

Make sure the student understands that when she/he registers for classes she/he must select a schedule that keeps Fridays free and allows them to attend her/his sponsoring club's (or clubs') regular meetings.

Plan to take the student on a shopping trip after arrival to get items for the room not included in the Rotary suitcase, such as paper products, school supplies etc.

Some students buy a pay-as-you-go cell phone for local calls/texts; others bring their home cell phones and may need a new SIM card.

For long distance and international calls most students use WhatsApp, WeChat, Facetime, Zoom, etc.

Post-Arrival

If not provided by the school, assist with opening a bank account.

Give phone numbers and addresses where you can be reached; get phone numbers and addresses where the student can be reached.

Have a special reception or dinner after their arrival to welcome them.

Explain solicitation/scams by companies with insurance, magazines, credit card, (extend car warranty!!) offers. Students from developing countries are often unaware and in past years have incurred large bills.

Explain the 911 emergency system.

Post-Arrival

Make them aware of the cost of such things as food, movies, entertainment, tipping, etc. Some often have no idea until the bill at a nice restaurant arrives. Also explain about sales tax.

The students are given a GRSP calendar at Conclave. Make sure your student enters all important dates during the year involving school, GRSP, Club and family events. Make Rotary a meaningful part of their year. Be sure and include special Club functions such as Christmas Party, Family Days, picnics, and service projects.

Make a roster of club members to provide a ride for your student to and from your weekly club meeting. If you are sharing a student with other clubs, liaise with the other clubs' host families to set a schedule to enable the student to attend at least one club meeting per week.

Post-Arrival

Set-up a date early in the year for your student to present a program to the sponsoring Club(s). Preview the talk, make suggestions for changes and be sure audio-visual equipment is available if needed.

Be alert for signs of homesickness, depression, or other personal problems (often happens after first month and at the Holidays).

General

In all discussions, social, political, and religious, direct the conversation toward understanding—not conversion.

As a Rotarian, you should demonstrate that knowledge, respect, and tolerance are the foundation for understanding.

If your student is of a different faith, try and arrange an opportunity to attend a worship service if possible.

Be sure they understand that attendance at Conclave and District Conference are mandatory, and they cannot make any plans that will conflict. They may need to arrange final exams so that they do not conflict with District Conference.

Attendance at all Student Weekend is expected, but not mandatory.

General

Make sure your student informs her/his teachers of any date conflicts during the first week of each semester.

Have a letter or email of excuse written on Club stationery available if the student will miss class for a GRSP or Rotary event (sample letter on www.grsp.org).

Your Trustee will coordinate with you, your club, and your student travel arrangements to the GRSP Student Weekends or to a “GRSP Bus” stop. Please volunteer yourself and encourage other club members to volunteer to provide transportation.

- Rotarians providing transport normally cover the cost of gas etc.
- GRSP Bus available for Savannah, Pelham, and St. Mary’s weekends
- Bus picks up in Gwinnett County, College Park, and Macon
- Sponsoring Club(s) will be invoiced if their student rides the bus

General

Trustees and host families are not required to provide transportation to informal/unsanctioned events clubs or groups of GRSP students may arrange.

Host families and sponsoring clubs are discouraged from loaning money or providing stipends to students. Students and host families should notify their Trustee and GRSP office if financial difficulties arise.

Students should be strongly discouraged from purchasing a car. However, if they insist (they are adults and they will use their own money), discuss and help with Georgia driver's license and insurance needs and give a basic review of the driving laws. Be sure they are knowledgeable of the Georgia laws as to drugs, alcohol, and DUI.

Host families are strongly discouraged from loaning their cars to their students. If you do, make sure that your insurance covers this.

General

Call the student weekly and set up times for visits. If you wait for the student to call, your phone will probably not ring. Treat the student like you would your child in college. If you had not heard from them lately, call!

Encourage and invite other Club members to take part in events with the student, including driving your student to/from official GRSP weekends. The more Rotarians involved, the better the experience of GRSP will be for all concerned.

Keep the Club informed during meetings and in Club bulletins and Facebook page of your student's activities.

Be sure to recognize special awards or achievements by your student such as Dean's List.

General

Invite your student's family to visit the U.S. and to stay with you, if possible.

If the student travels to another state or out of the U.S. He/she must notify you so that they can be reached in emergencies.

If leaving the U.S. He/she must get authorization from the school's international office.

The Holidays

Let the student know early that you expect them to stay with you during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays rather than travel in the U.S. or back home.

The holidays are an important part of the cultural exchange of the GRSP scholarship. There will be time for travel at New Year and following the school year.

Be sure that the student understands this important part of the program.

Pre-Departure

Plan for a second talk late in the year for student to promote GRSP and thank the Club.

Provide two Club banners for the student- one for them and one for their sponsoring Club. Consider making your student a Paul Harris Fellow and/or Will Watt Fellow.

Have a special farewell reception or dinner and invite all the Rotarians who have helped the student during the year.

Make sure your student knows the last date when she/he must leave the U.S. Students on a J-1 Visa must leave no later than 30 days after the last official day of the spring semester. Students on a F-1 visa have 60 days. This still allows plenty of time to travel within the U.S. However, if your student leaves the U.S. within the 30 or 60 days, she/he cannot be readmitted on their J-1 or F-1 Visa.

Help with plans for departure arrangements.

YOU are the key to a great year for your student.
