



2026 CONCLAVE

Savannah, Georgia
August 21-23, 2026

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CONCLAVE HOTEL:

The DeSoto Hotel, 15 E Liberty, Savannah, GA 31401

Fee Based Parking Garage Located Next to the Venue 15 W. Liberty St. or W. Harris St. Garage

Valet Parking is an option at the Hotel Entrance

Friday Program | August 21, 2026

The DeSoto Hotel, 15 E Liberty, Savannah, GA 31401

11:00 AM-12:00 PM Students and Rotarians arrive and register at tables located in the Foyer outside the Oglethorpe Ballroom -main floor
Student luggage will be securely stored in area adjacent to hotel lobby

11:15-12:15 PM Lunch Buffet provided (FOR STUDENTS) in Pulaski Room – main floor

Rotarians are free until 12:30 PM. Lunch options: The DeSoto Hotel has a restaurant on the main floor, and there are restaurants and sandwich shops nearby as well as on River Street (River Street is an approximate 15- 20 minute walk from The DeSoto)..

12:30-1:30 PM **General Session 1 in Oglethorpe Ballroom**
Welcome: **GRSP Chair Ian Bond**
What is Rotary? **D6920 Governor Beverly Trainor**

Attendees: All students, trustees, officers, full year host families (weekend host families are welcome to attend)

1:30 PM Break

1:45-2:45 PM **District Caucuses - Hotel Second Floor**
D6900 – Monterey Suite with **Scott Rich**
D6910 – Lafayette Suite with **Cheryl Huffman**
D6920 – Chippewa Suite with **Dave Razo**

Attendees: Students, District Chairs, officers, trustees and host families

2:20 PM Students leave Caucuses for Cabaret Rehearsal in Oglethorpe Ballroom

2:45 PM Caucuses adjourn

2:30-4:00 PM **Cabaret Rehearsal (STUDENTS) with Jim and Lynn Drake** in Oglethorpe Ballroom

4:00 PM Visiting Rotarians check into The DeSoto Hotel

4:00 PM Weekend Host Families please pick up students at the East Harris Street entrance opposite lobby at rear of the hotel, across from E. Shaver Bookstore.

Welcome Dinner and Program

Attire: Business Casual

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Attendees: Students, ALL visiting Rotarians and guests plus Weekend Hosts

6:00 PM Arrival at Oglethorpe Ballroom-main floor

6:05 PM Class of 2026-2027 **Individual Photos** in Foyer outside of the Ballroom.

6:25 PM **Welcome by GRSP Chair Ian Bond**
Introduction of the **Hon. Van R. Johnson II, Mayor of Savannah**, by **GRSP Conclave Committee Chair Jim Drake**
Welcome to Savannah- **Mayor Johnson**
Four-Way Test led by **Rowena Patrick**, President of the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Savannah
Invocation by **Dale Critz, Jr.**, President of the Rotary Club of Savannah

Dinner Buffet (Reservation required)

7:00 PM Remarks – **GRSP Chair Ian Bond**

7:15 PM **GRSP Alumna Birgitte Illum, Class of 1989-1990**

7:30 PM **Introduction of Students** – by District, with trustees and year-long host families

8:40 PM Remarks and Auction - **GRSP Foundation President Terry Adkins**

8:55 PM Housekeeping information: **GRSP Chair Ian Bond**

9:00 PM Weekend Host Families depart with students from venue

Saturday Program | August 22, 2026

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Breakfast Students provided breakfast by their Weekend Host Families
Visiting Rotarians – Breakfast not included in conference room rate
Options: The DeSoto Hotel has a restaurant plus there are restaurants and cafes in the area within walking distance of the hotel.

- 8:40AM -10:00 AM **General Session 2 in Oglethorpe Ballroom.**
- Attendees:** All students, District Chairs, Officers, Trustees and full year host families. Weekend host families are also welcome to attend.
- 8:40AM -9:05AM Brief History of GRSP (video)
- 9:05AM Review of GRSP “Student Handbook”.
- Facilitator: **GRSP Vice Chair James McCoy**
- 9:50 AM Gearing up for the Best Year with Mama Hen/**Laura Shadrick**
- 10:00 AM Break
- 10:15-10:50 AM **General Session 3 in Oglethorpe Ballroom**
 10:15 AM Visa and Status Guidelines with **Dr. Eric Spears**
 10:30 AM GRSP and the Law - Chatham County Superior Court Senior **Judge Penny Freeseemann**
- 10:50 AM Break
- 11:00-11:45 AM **General Session 4 in Oglethorpe Ballroom**
 Keynote Address - **Nipuna Ambanpola, GRSP Alumnus, Class of 2015-2016**
- 12:00 PM **Class Photographs** (Students and Trustees only)
 Location To Be Announced
- 12:30-1:15 PM Buffet Lunch Break in Pulaski Room
 (Lunch provided for Students, Host Committee, GRSP Staff and Officers only)
- 12:30-2:30 PM Lunch, Rotarians and Guests, The DeSoto Hotel and local restaurants.
- 1:15-4:00 PM **Cabaret Rehearsal** (students only) with **Jim and Lynn Drake** in Oglethorpe Ballroom
- 4:00 PM Weekend Host Families depart with students from venue

Dinner and GRSP Cabaret
Attire: Business/Smart
Traditional/National Attire for Students

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Students, Rotarians and guests plus Weekend Host Families

- 6:00 PM Arrival - Oglethorpe Ballroom
- 6:20 PM **Welcome by GRSP Chair Ian Bond**
 Four-Way Test Four led by **Byron Loomis**, President of the Rotary Club of Savannah South

Invocation by **Conni Reynold**, President of the Rotary Club of Savannah East

- 6:30 PM **Dinner Buffet** (Reservation required) Oglethorpe Ballroom
- 7:15 PM Students dismissed for Cabaret
- 7:35 PM **Parade of Nations and Cabaret** (In celebration of GRSP's 80th Anniversary)
- 9:15 PM Housekeeping information: **GRSP Chair Ian Bond**
Adjournment (or at conclusion of Cabaret) **GRSP Chair Ian Bond**
- 9:15-10:30 PM Social Mixer for **Students only** in Oglethorpe Ballroom (drinks and snacks)
- 9:15-10:30 PM Social Mixer for **Rotarians and guests** in Pulaski Room (main floor) Cash bar available until 10PM.
- 10:30 PM Weekend Host Families depart with students from venue

Sunday Program | August 23, 2026

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- Breakfast Students – Breakfast provided by Weekend Host Families
Visiting Rotarians. Breakfast not included in conference room rate
Options: The DeSoto Hotel has a restaurant plus there are local restaurants and cafes in the area.
- 8:30 AM Weekend Host Families drop off students and luggage at the East Harris Street entrance to the hotel.
Please do not enter through the main lobby.
- 9:00 AM **Scavenger Hunt**– In search of Savannah's past and present.

Rotarians who wish to attend this event please be present in the hotel Foyer at 8:30 AM.
- 10:45 AM Students return to the hotel to collect their luggage and meet up with their rides home.