

**September 19-21 2025**



Rotary E-Club of Global Travelers 2024 ( more photos at end of flyer)

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# **4th Annual GT Fall Retreat**

**September 19-21, 2025 Merrifield MN ( address provided to all who rsvp)**

**Last year's weekend retreat with 54 Global Travelers was so fun we decided to do it again! What better way to get to know each other than spending the weekend together in a very beautiful place?**

Come to the beautiful Brainerd lakes area in Minnesota (2 ½ hours north of the Twin Cities) for a weekend of fun with your fellow Global Travelers. Last year our weekend included a chili making contest; pickleball; golf putting; pontoon rides; bonfires; honey tasting; Monarch tagging; garden tours; hiking Paul Bunyan trail; unsets; PICKLE PIZZAS!; GT Signature wood fired pizza extravaganza; more great

food and fabulous friendship making.

**WHEN September 19-21-2025:**

- Event is from anytime Friday - Sunday after brunch. You are welcome to arrive Friday am but lunch will not be served

**RSVP'S**

- Please RSVP to Paula at one of the following:
  - Email to [paularotarygh@gmail.com](mailto:paularotarygh@gmail.com)
  - Text to 612 -616-1002
  - DACdb Go to calendar and click on event and RSVP

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:** TBD but most likely related to area Food insecurity. Stay tuned.....

**WEEKEND ITINERARY:**

**Arrivals Friday**

- Friday weekend KICKOFF dinner : **UFFDAHH!! Minnesota dishes at their finest with a Paul Bunyan theme.** ( might be a few Ole and Lena jokes interspersed!) wild rice soup, tater tot casseroles, various hot dishes, juicy lucy burgers, green jello, rhubarb dessert, maybe walleye/fish fingers, honeycrisp apples and apple crisp, AND lefse!!

**Paul Bunyan attire: flannel shirts and jeans!!**

**On your way to the event, stop at the rest area just south of Brainerd MN-371 and take your picture with 12 ft tall Paul Bunyan**



<https://www.exploreminnesota.com/article/where-to-see-paul-bunyan->

## statues-minnesota

- **Saturday Breakfast:** 7-9am Continental breakfast. 9-10am hot breakfast .
- **Saturday Lunch:** build your own subs and salads
- **Saturday Optional Activities:** pickleball; canoeing; kayaking ( we have both a canoe and kayak); pontooning (weather dependent); hiking/biking the Paul Bunyan Trail (Bring bikes); eating; shopping in Nisswa; ping pong; darts; honey tasting; bee hive inspection ( for anyone interested); garden tours; Monarch tagging; did I say eating?; bonfires; putting green; lawn games to include KUB, bocce ball, corn hole; hanging out with your fellow GT'ers and eating some more!.
- **Saturday Night Dinner** will be the GT Signature **BUILD YOUR OWN WOOD FIRED PIZZAS** (starting with pickle pizzas of course) , bonfires and s'mores.
- **Sunday am- noon:** continental brunch and departure.
- **Sunday Afternoon:** **GOLF** for those wanting to golf and can stay through Sunday afternoon, Thomas will arrange 9-hole golf at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Cross Lake for early Sunday afternoon. Please let Paula know when you RSVP if you would like to stay for golf.

For those wanting to spend extra time in the Lakes area, Itasca State Park is about a 90-minute drive and is the headwaters of the Mississippi River. North Shore of Superior is spectacular but a couple day trip on its own. For area activities, more information can be found at [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com).

**PLEASE LET PAULA KNOW ABOUT ANY ALLERGIES OR DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AND I WILL DO MY BEST TO ACCOMODATE YOU.**

### **LODGING :**

- I recommend you make lodging reservations NOW and cancel if need be. September in the lakes area is very popular and lodging fills up by early summer

## LODGING OPTIONS:

- LOTTO for 3 Guest rooms in Paula and Thomas's home . If you have not stayed in one the guest rooms in past years, you are eligible for the guest room lotto! There are 3 guest rooms available ( two with king beds, and the third either two twins or a queen bed). Please let me know when you RSVP if you would like to be put in for the Guest Room Lotto. Drawing will be July 1, 2025.
- RV space.
  - We can accommodate 3-4 RV's on our property. Please no large RVs. First requests accepted. Have electrical (bring own electrical cords).
- Hotels:
  - **Whitefish Lodge and Suites in Cross Lake** 218-692-2246
  - **Baymont Hotel** Baxter MN 218-656-6107
  - **Americinn** by Wyndom Baxter Brainerd 218-878-9616
- Resorts:
  - **Craguns Resort** 800-272-4867 (up-scale and has excellent amenities to include several golf courses) [www.craguns.com](http://www.craguns.com)
  - **Breezy Point Resort** 1-800-432-3777 [www.breezypointresort.com](http://www.breezypointresort.com) ( another full facility resort)
  - **Cozy Bay Resort on Lake Edward.** Looks to have cabins with 3 bedrooms for those wanting to share with other GT'ers
  - **Mission Beach Resort** [www.missionbeachresortmn.com](http://www.missionbeachresortmn.com)
  - **Train Bell Resort** [www.trainbellresort.com](http://www.trainbellresort.com)
- Area AirBNBs [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

## COST FOR WEEKEND:

- We anticipate the cost for weekend of 5 meals and porta potty rentals to be approx 45.00/person. Additional details and payment options will be provided prior to event and also through the Whats App group for this event. Deadline RSVP and prepayment for this event will be due by September 1, 2025.
- Extra and leftover food will be donated to Lighthouse Beginnings in Brainerd and any extra monies (after food and potty rental costs) will be given to our GT foundation.

## **TRANSPORTATION, PARKING AND CARPOOLING**

### **Airline travel**

- For those flying in, fly into Minneapolis St Paul International Airport (MSP) and rent a car, or we may be able to connect you with Minneapolis Global Travelers for you to catch a ride to the lake. ....about 2 ½ hours. Can connect with others for car pooling via the Whats App group.

### **Car travel**

- **PLEASE CONSIDER CAR POOLING.** Last year with over 50 people, parking was already a challenge. If the group is larger this year, we will need to have people park on a side road about a block away. Consider bringing a flashlight to find your car at night!

### **KP DUTY and PARKING DUTY**

- There will be sign ups for KP duty (before and after the 5 meals) and helping Thomas with parking duty.. Winners of the guest room lottery will be asked to help with KP for breakfasts. We ask that everyone help out sometime in the course of the weekend. Sign-ups will be made available prior to the event. Thank you ahead of time for your help!!

### **RSVP'S and QUESTIONS**

- Please RSVP or send questions to Paula at one of the following:
  - Email to [paularotarygh@gmail.com](mailto:paularotarygh@gmail.com)
  - Text to 612 -616-1002 ( please leave names and how many in your party)
  - DACdb Go to calendar and click on event and RSVP

### **WHATS APP**

- Group will be created and you will be added upon your RSVP!







For Questions or RSVP please contact  
Paula Schwartz at  
[paularotarygh@gmail.com](mailto:paularotarygh@gmail.com) or text to  
612-616-1002. Spouses or SO's welcome