Legislator Exchange Program

What is it?

Legislator Exchange Program is an offering of the Civility Caucus. The program is designed to give legislators an opportunity to 1) connect with each other in a fun, relaxed environment, and 2) learn more about our great state.

How does it work?

An interested legislator takes the initiative to invite a legislator of the other party to participate in an exchange. The two of you will schedule a convenient time to visit each other’s district. How you do so is completely up to the two of you. Each legislator should expect to spend a full to a half day in another’s district. Though some circumstances might require a shorter stay, while others might allow for a longer visit; either way, take advantage of the time you have! Get creative!

Hosts: remember there is no “correct” or “proper” schedule. This is your chance to show off the highlights of your district. Show your guest around downtown, bring them to the local “hotspot”, or a scenic park or landmark. Or invite them to attend a community event you helped organize or school board meeting you are a part of. This is your chance, show them the essence of your home.

Guests: your purpose is to come with an open mind and to observe and to learn. Come with a willingness to participate and do your best to engage in your host’s plan.

However, you organize your visits, the goal is to foster meaningful conversation that enables legislators to get to know each other on a more personal level than is ordinarily possible.

Support

If you have any questions or concerns or need any support in organizing your visit, please let OCDR know as they are happy to help. Please also let them know if you participate in an exchange so that they can keep track of the program. Contact Dave Bartholomay at Dave.Bartholomay@state.mn.us or 651-539-1402.