

Residents of Rolla's Sister City, Sondershausen, Germany visit Rolla area

A delegation from Sondershausen, Germany, Rolla's Sister City, will be visiting the Rolla area and other points of interest in the state of Missouri from June 11 to June 17. Rolla and Sondershausen have been sister cities for over 10 years.

The delegation, which consists of six residents from Sondershausen ranging in age from 20 to 38, arrived Wednesday, June 11 at the St. Louis Airport where they were greeted by host families and members of the Rolla Breakfast Rotary Club, who together with the City of Rolla and Thomas Whitefield Memorial Foundation are sponsoring their 7-day visit. Upon their arrival in Rolla on June 11 they were given a private reception and welcome by the three host families they will be staying with during their week-long stay in Rolla.

John Peterseon, the City's Director of Community Development, and a member of the Rotary Breakfast Club of Rolla who is helping coordinate the delegation's visit, said the Sister City relationship Rolla shares with Sondershausen is all about education, the sharing of cultures, and the fostering of understanding between citizens of different countries."

On their second day in Rolla, June 12 the delegation will be enjoying a float trip on the Current River where they will experience one of the hallmarks of living in the Ozark region of Missouri. On Friday, June 13 they will head out to Busch Stadium in St. Louis for a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game versus the Philadelphia Philly's. On June 14 at 2 p.m. three members of the delegation will participate in the Thomas Whitefield Memorial Foundation 3 on 3 Soccer Tournament at the Lions Club Soccer fields located on Lions Club Drive. Residents and members of the community are encouraged and invited to attend this popular athletic event with 50 soccer teams in competition.

After enjoying a day of leisure on Sunday, June 15 in the Rolla area with their host families and Rolla friends, the delegation will be guests at the Rolla Breakfast Rotary Club at 7 a.m. at Zeno's Restaurant and Hotel on Martin Springs Drive. Later that day they will visit and tour the state Capitol in Jefferson City where they will get a glimpse of the inner-workings of State Government and the beautiful, ornate exterior and interior of our State's Capitol.

On Monday, June 16 the delegation will be formally recognized and greeted by Rolla Mayor Bill Jenks, III and the Rolla City Council during the City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Jenks will present the delegation with a "Key to the City" and welcomes members of the community to attend the presentation at City Hall.

On Tuesday, June 17 – the last full day of their visit in Rolla – the delegation will receive a tour of the Missouri S&T campus in Rolla. They will also take a tour of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in St. James. The delegation will be returning to Sondershausen, Germany the following morning, June 18.