



# Rotary Basics

[www.rotary.org/rotarybasics](http://www.rotary.org/rotarybasics)

Your Guide to Getting Involved in Rotary





## Welcome to Rotary!

You're now part of a global network of business, professional, and community volunteers. In Rotary clubs around the world, Rotarians like you are changing lives in their own communities and those abroad — and forming strong, lasting friendships in the process.

So, how do *you* want to get involved in Rotary?

### VOLUNTEER MY SKILLS

- ✓ Talk to club members about where your expertise is most needed.
- ✓ Serve on a club committee.
- ✓ Attend your club's next assembly and help plan club activities.

### IMPROVE MY COMMUNITY

- ✓ Volunteer to help with your club's signature project — one your club is known for in the community.
- ✓ Work with a youth program sponsored by your club, such as Interact.
- ✓ Identify a need in your community and suggest a hands-on project that addresses this need.

### BUILD MY NETWORK

- ✓ Attend as many club meetings as you can. Connect with different people each time.
- ✓ Join a Rotary Fellowship and meet Rotarians in other countries who share your interests.
- ✓ Go to your district conference and the RI Convention.
- ✓ Check out another Rotary club's meeting.

If you truly want to give back to the community — and to the world at large — you join Rotary. It has an arm that reaches across all barriers. To be part of that is very powerful.

— Aruna Koushik, Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada

Our motto, **SERVICE ABOVE SELF**, embodies our humanitarian spirit. Rotary's Avenues of Service guide our activities:

- Through **Club Service**, we have fun, build lasting friendships, and make sure that our club runs well.
- Through **Vocational Service**, we volunteer our professional skills to serve others and promote integrity in everything we do.
- Through **Community Service**, we address local needs and work with our community to bring lasting improvements.
- Through **International Service**, we meet humanitarian needs around the globe and promote world understanding and peace.
- Through **New Generations Service**, we work with young people to help them become the next generation of leaders, visionaries, and peacemakers.

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**THE FOUR-WAY TEST**, created by a Rotarian, underscores our commitment to integrity:

Of the things we think, say or do

- 1) Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2) Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



As a Rotarian, you are **WELCOME** to attend any Rotary club meeting, anywhere in the world. Use the Club Locator tool at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or the free mobile Rotary Club Locator app to find clubs, meeting times, and locations.

I found a fellowship where every nation, every color, all of humanity can be like a family.  
I've got a place where I can serve my people and serve the world.

— Ailinda Sawe, Rotary Club of Dar-es-Salaam-Mzizima, Tanzania



**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION** helps Rotary clubs and districts work together to provide meaningful, sustainable service. Foundation grants support projects that provide clean water, medical care, literacy classes, and other essentials to people in need all around the world. Since 1947, the Foundation has contributed more than US\$2.4 billion to fund these vital efforts.

The Foundation also awards Rotary Peace Fellowships for study at Rotary Peace Centers around the globe. Since 2002-03, more than 480 fellows from 80 countries have participated at a cost of more than \$31 million.

Our contributions to the Foundation ensure that we can bring sustainable change to communities in need. Ask your club's Rotary Foundation committee chair how you can support our Foundation.

## SERVE INTERNATIONALLY

- ✓ Get involved with your club's international service projects.
- ✓ Use the ProjectLINK online database to learn about other clubs' international service projects needing volunteers or other assistance.
- ✓ Host a Rotary Youth Exchange student visiting your district.

## HELP ROTARY GROW

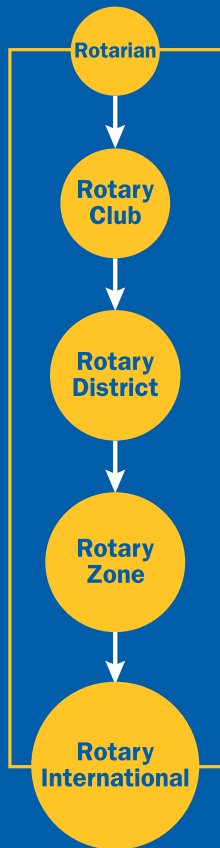
- ✓ Recommend a friend or colleague for membership in your club. All Rotarians can — and should — invite new members.
- ✓ Participate in a club leadership development program.
- ✓ Tell friends and colleagues about how your club is giving back to your community.

Rotary is service. You don't come to Rotary to get something out of it. You come to Rotary to put something into it. And once you've put something into it, you will get something out of it, but it won't be what you expect. It'll be better.

— Liz Smith, Rotary Club of Detroit, Michigan, USA

We're a **GRASSROOTS** organization. We carry out our most meaningful service work through our Rotary clubs. Each club elects its own officers and enjoys

considerable autonomy within the framework of Rotary's constitution and bylaws. Rotary districts (groups of clubs) support these efforts and are led by district governors. Rotary clubs belong to the global association Rotary International, led by the RI president and the RI Board of Directors.



We direct our service in six **AREAS OF FOCUS**: peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and economic and community development.

Each club strives to reflect the **DIVERSITY** of its community in its mix of professions, genders, ages, and ethnicities. This ensures that a wide variety of expertise is available for club projects.



## OFFER YOUR **SUPPORT**

- ✓ Help your club or district raise funds for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge to fight polio.
- ✓ Donate to The Rotary Foundation.
- ✓ Set an annual goal for your Foundation giving.

You can **CONNECT** with other Rotarians on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, and YouTube. See [www.rotary.org/socialnetworks](http://www.rotary.org/socialnetworks).





Our top priority is **ERADICATING POLIO**. Thanks to Rotary and our international partners, the number of polio cases has dropped 99 percent worldwide since 1988. But as long as polio threatens even one child, children everywhere are at risk.

Rotary clubs are raising US\$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These funds support immunization campaigns in developing countries where polio remains a threat.

Rotary International is a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, along with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

## LEARN MORE

- ✓ Explore new member resources and other tools at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).
- ✓ Read your Rotary magazine and your club and district newsletters.
- ✓ Visit your club and district websites.
- ✓ Order Rotary publications and videos at [shop.rotary.org](http://shop.rotary.org).

## Rotary by the Numbers

**1.2 million Rotarians worldwide**

**34,000**  
Rotary clubs

**13,200**  
Interact clubs

**8,500**  
Rotaract clubs



**7,000**  
Rotary Community Corps

**532**  
Rotary districts

**34** Zones

## GOOD TO KNOW

**Club assembly** — A meeting to discuss the club's programs and activities. Open to all club members.

**District conference** — An annual motivational meeting that showcases club and district activities. Open to all Rotarians in that district and their families.

**Interact** — Service and social clubs for youth ages 12 to 18 that are sponsored by Rotary clubs.

**PolioPlus** — The Rotary Foundation program focused on global polio eradication efforts.

**ProjectLINK** — A database at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) that lists Rotary service projects needing volunteer or financial assistance. Also highlights model projects from around the world.

**Rotaract** — Service and social clubs for young adults ages 18 to 30 that are sponsored by Rotary clubs.

**Rotarian Action Groups** — International groups of individuals who share a passion for a humanitarian issue or service activity. An example is the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group.

**Rotary Community Corps (RCC)** — Groups of non-Rotarians who work on service projects for their communities. Organized and sponsored by Rotary clubs.

**Rotary Fellowships** — International groups of individuals who share a vocational or recreational interest. An example is the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians.

**Rotary Foundation, The** — The philanthropic arm of Rotary International. Helps Rotarians advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through humanitarian projects and educational programs.

**Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees** — The 15 Rotarians who manage the business of The Rotary Foundation, led by the trustee chair. Appointed by the RI president, with agreement from the RI Board, to four-year terms.

**Rotary International (RI)** — The international association composed of 34,000 Rotary clubs in nearly every country of the world. Headquartered in Evanston, Illinois, USA, with international offices on four continents.

**RI Board of Directors** — The 19 Rotarians who set policy for Rotary International. Elected to two-year terms.

**RI Convention** — An annual celebration of Rotary and Rotarian accomplishments. Held in a different location around the world each year. Open to all Rotarians and their families.

**RI president** — The Rotarian who presides over the RI Board. Elected to a one-year term.

**Rotary Peace Centers** — Programs at eight universities around the world that offer advanced degrees and professional certificates in peace and conflict resolution.

**Rotary Peace Fellow** — A recipient of a Rotary Foundation scholarship for study at one of the Rotary Peace Centers.

**Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge** — The fundraising effort to match challenge grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in support of polio eradication.

**Rotary Youth Exchange** — A cultural exchange program for youth ages 15 to 19. Exchanges can last from one week to one year.

**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** — Leadership training and recognition activities conducted by Rotary clubs or districts for youth and young adults ages 14 to 30.



Every Rotary club in the world, no matter how big or small,  
has one thing in common: friendship. And it's from this base of friendship  
that we serve our community.

— Kemal Attilâ, Rotary Club of Ankara-Tandogan, Turkey



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