



Interact

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. As one of the most significant and fastest growing programs of Rotary service, Interact has become a worldwide phenomenon. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs. They are self-governing and self-supporting clubs. Rotarians provide support by attending club meetings, encouraging student governance of the meetings and activities. They invite Interactors to participate in other Rotary sponsored programs such as Youth Leadership Camps, Rotary Against Drugs Speech Contest, Shadows Days and of course Rotary meetings and socials.

Interact clubs are required to complete at least one community service or school project and one international project. Through these efforts, Interactors develop a network of local and international friendships and learn the importance of developing leadership skills. They demonstrate personal integrity and respect for others, understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work. They experience the rewards of international understanding.

Each club is encouraged to set up a Facebook page and Facebook group. [HERE IS A VIDEO](#) on the District website under New Generations, Interact/Interact Resources/Interact Clubs and Facebook.

The District website also includes a listing of all Interact clubs and their Facebook page as well as a link for Interact to access Rotary International's information on Interact. There is a link to update the contact information required annually by RI and to read the Interact Handbook or Interact Brochure. Our District website has a wealth of resources on Interact.

An annual Leadership Conference is held in the fall for training both Interactors/Rotaractors/School Advisors and Rotary advisors. Each club is encouraged to send Interacts, their advisors and the Rotarian advisor to the Leadership Conference. The Rotary club should budget funds to pay for the registration fees to attend the conference and other District activities.

Starting an Interact Club is easy and rewarding. Though the Interact Handbook provides detailed directions, highlights include (1) determining your club's interest and selecting a Rotary advisor(s). (2) The next key step is usually to visit a school's Principal or Assistant Principal in charge of clubs to see if a new Interact Club is possible. (Sometimes Rotarians know students who are interested and both Rotarian and students visit the school together.) Present all the great Rotary goals and benefits for young people. (3) Work with the school to find a school advisor. (Students often help.) (4) Interact Clubs need 15 members to receive a charter, though you might need to begin your club with fewer members. (5) The sponsoring Rotary Club works with the school advisor, using the structure described in the Interact Handbook, to immediately involve members in service projects of their interest. Most of all have fun. (6) The sponsoring Rotary Club will plan a charter ceremony when there are 15 active members.

Remember that there are many resources to help you establish your Interact Club and that your District Interact Chairs are also ready to help. Your members will quickly develop leadership skills and learn lots about the great accomplishments of Rotary.