



# INTERACT BASICS

Rotary International District 7980

## INTERACT FACTS

Interact is a Rotary sponsored program that involves young people in meaningful service projects while developing their leadership skills and initiative. Through their service activities, Interactors learn the importance of: developing leadership skills and personal integrity, demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others, understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work, and advancing international understanding and goodwill.

## WHAT IS INTERACT?

- What?** Rotary sponsored service club  
**Who?** Young men and women ages 12 – 18  
**Why?** Teenagers participate in fun, meaningful service projects that benefit the community, develop leadership skills, and meet new friends.
- Promotes:** “Service above Self” and Rotary’s Four-Way Test  
**How many?** Recently estimated at over 15,000 clubs in 142 countries

## INTERACT PROJECTS

Some example projects include:

- Variety shows
- Charity dinners, races, and car washes
- Holiday gift wrapping
- Food and clothing drives
- Polio eradication
- Neighborhood and park clean-ups
- Raise awareness for issues like homelessness and domestic violence
- School function volunteering
- Rotary function volunteering
- Building houses
- Orphanage and nursing home visits
- Youth leadership development

Contact [InteractClubsD7980@gmail.com](mailto:InteractClubsD7980@gmail.com) with further questions.



## THE ROLE OF THE FACULTY ADVISER

The Interact Faculty Adviser, who is a faculty member at a school-based club, oversees the activities of the Interact club and acts as a liaison between the sponsoring Rotary Club and school administration. Patience, organization, and desire to work with young people are essential qualities of effective faculty advisers. Suggested areas of responsibility for an Interact Faculty Adviser include:

- Arranging for meeting space for interact club meetings,
- Support and advising Interactors in developing meeting agendas, setting goals, and timelines,
- Providing support for Interact activities outside of school hours,
- Recommending that Interactors participate in youth-leadership seminars and other Rotary-sponsored opportunities for youth, and
- Acting as a liaison between the Interactors and the school faculty, and administration, and
- Approving all Interact-related announcements and communications.

### **FURTHER READING:**

[Rotary District 7980's Interact Club Adviser Guide](#)

[RI's Interact Faculty Adviser Guide](#)

[RI's Interact Handbook](#)

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# THE ROLE OF THE ROTARIAN ADVISER

THE ROTARY INTERACT\* ADVISER PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN A CLUB'S SUPPORT OF ITS INTERACT CLUB(S). THE ADVISER ATTENDS THE BOARD AND CLUB MEETINGS ON THE INTERACT CLUB.

## RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Counseling the Interactors when they have service projects or fund-raising activities,
- Acting as a liaison between the Rotary Club and the Interactors and between the Rotary Club and the faculty adviser,
- Overseeing an Interact club's elections each year and reporting the names and addresses of new officers to the district Interact committee,
- Supporting the Interactors in accessing the many resources of Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation to develop and provide service programs, and
- Teaching by example the importance of Service above Self, the Four-Way Test, and the meaning of Rotary.

\*The word "Interact" stands for *international action*.

## FURTHER READING:

[Rotary District 7980's Interact Club Adviser Guide](#)

[RI's Interact Handbook](#)

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# STARTING AN INTERACT CLUB

## *Steps to starting an Interact Club:*

- 1 Talk to your Rotary Club about sponsoring an Interact Club. **THIS IS CRUCIAL!** Rotary assistance is necessary to start off an Interact Club right.
- 2 Talk to the administration of a local school about starting an Interact Club.
- 3 Find a teacher/administrator at the school to act as the Interact Adviser. Have the adviser identify/find responsible students who are interested in starting and leading the club. Invite the Interact leaders to attend RYLA or Next Generations if available.
- 4 Designate a Rotarian to be the Interact Rotary adviser who will attend all Interact meetings to give updates and support. This Rotarian adviser will act as the Interact Club's resource person by providing advice on organizing service projects, fundraising, and club administration.
- 5 Help the clubs publicize in your community and invite them to volunteer at Rotary sponsored events.
- 6 Establish contact with Interact District 7980 and get the club active on the District level.
- 7 Remember to stay in contact with the Interact Club. Keep updated on their activities, but keep in mind that the Interact Clubs are self-sustaining. Be supportive, patient, and open-minded for the best Interact-Rotary relationship!

Remember, Interactors are the future of Rotary. You are building the future leaders of tomorrow!

## **FURTHER READING:**

[Rotary District 7980's Guide to Starting an Interact Club](#)

[RI's Interact Promotional Card](#)

[RI's Interact Handbook](#)

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