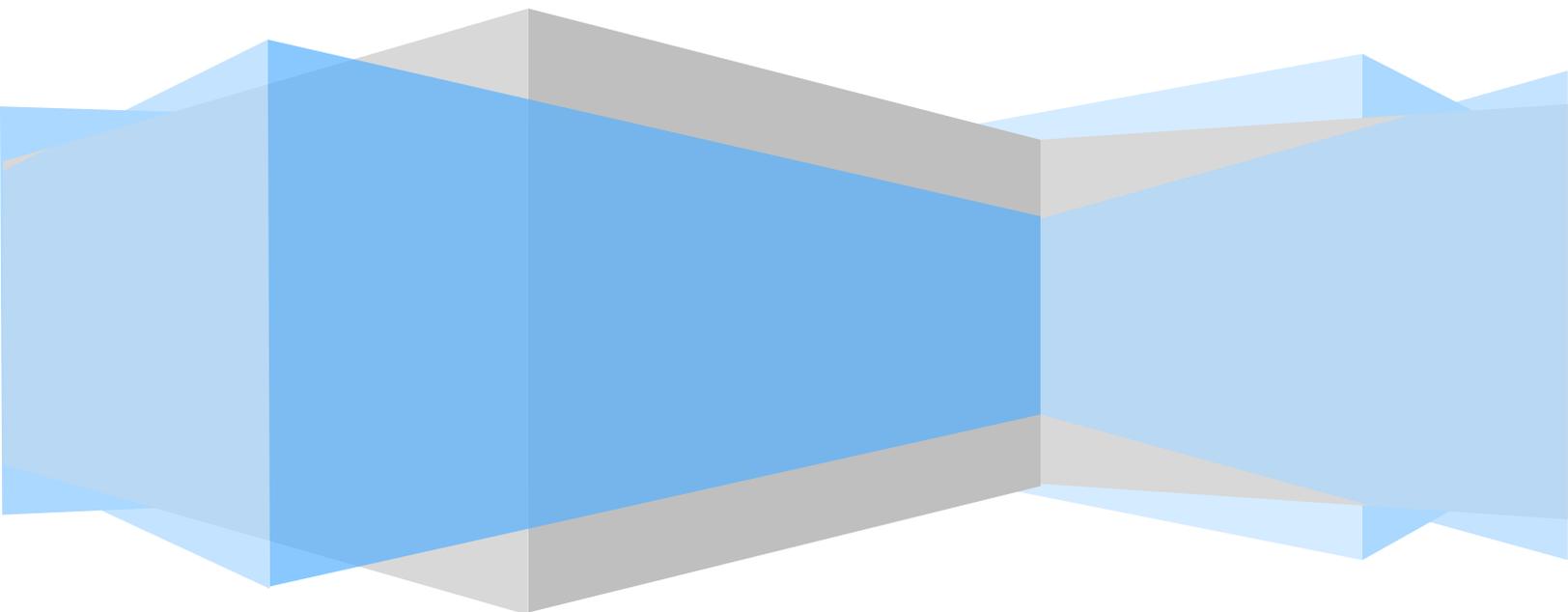


Rotary International District 7980



The Interact Club Adviser Guide

Published by the Interact District Officers



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Introduction



Rotarian and faculty advisers play major roles in supporting Interact clubs. Patience, organization, and the desire to work with young people are essential qualities of effective advisers. This guide explains how Interact fits into the Rotary family, suggests adviser responsibilities, outlines risk management, supplies additional resources, and suggests effective and successful ways to fulfill the adviser role.

Rotary International and Youth Service

Overview

Rotary International is a worldwide service organization for business and professional men and women, with more than 1.2 million members in over 34,000 Rotary clubs. Rotary's main objective is service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty, hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence.

Rotary is organized at club, district, and international levels to carry out its program of service. Rotarians are members of their respective Rotary clubs, each of which are led by a Rotary club president. Rotary clubs in the same geographic area are part of a district, led by a district governor. Districts help clubs connect to each other and access Rotary resources. There are around 530 districts, and these are organized into 34 zones. Each zone has about the same number of Rotarians. This network of clubs makes up Rotary International.

In southern Connecticut, more than 60 Rotary clubs make up Rotary District 7980, which is located in Zone 32.

Youth Service

Rotarians channel their commitment to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity. The Avenue of Youth Service recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals.

Rotarians support Rotary youth programs, including Interact, in the belief that young people should take an active interest in community life and have the opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Other Youth Service programs in Rotary District 7980 include Early Act, Next Generations, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE),

and Rotaract. For more information about youth programs, visit the district Youth Service website: <http://www.rotaryyouthservices7980.com>

Interact in Rotary District 7980

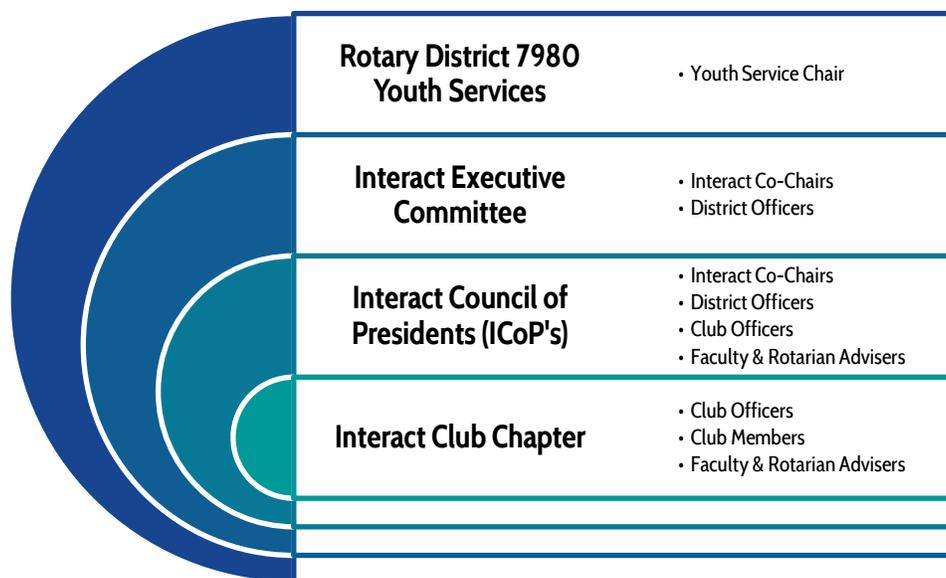
Overview

Interact is Rotary International’s service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Interact’s global youth network is dedicated to community and international service. As one of the most significant and fastest growing programs of Rotary service, Interact has become a worldwide phenomenon. There are currently more than 14,000 Interact clubs and 330,000 Interactors worldwide. Every Interact club project, great or small, has a lasting impact on society worldwide.

Interact clubs can either be school or community based. They are self-governing and self-supporting, however, benefit from the guidance of sponsoring Rotary clubs.

Organization of District 7980 Interact

Interact clubs elect their own officers and enjoy considerable autonomy within the framework of the [Standard Interact Club Constitution](#) and the [RI Constitution and Bylaws](#). However, Interact club chapters are also united with other Interact clubs in their geographic region. The fifty Interact club chapters in southern Connecticut are part of Rotary International District 7980.



District Youth Service Chair

The district Youth Service chairperson is responsible for coordinating Rotary District 7980's Youth Service programs by direction of the district governor. This includes Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Advanced Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (ARYLA), Next Generations, and Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE). The contact information for the Youth Service chair can be found on the last page of this packet.

Interact Executive Committee

The Interact Executive Committee consists of Interact Co-Chairs and District Officers. The Interact Co-Chairs are Rotarians appointed by the Youth Service chairperson to oversee the Interact program in Rotary District 7980. This includes the formation of new Interact clubs, the planning of district-wide events, and improving inter-club communication. In good keeping with Rotary's intent to empower youth, the district Interact Co-Chairs select dedicated Interactors from across the district to work with them throughout the year. The Interact Executive Committee hosts Interact Assemblies, the District 7980 Interact Video Contest, and awards Interact Club Citations to deserving clubs. The executive committee also oversees the Interact Council of Presidents (see below).

The Interact Co-Chairs and District Officers are great contacts for Interact faculty and Rotarian advisers, as they have the answers to most questions and can provide your Interact club with the latest information. The contact information for the Interact Executive Board can be found on the last page of this packet.

Interact Council of Presidents (ICoP's)

The Interact Council of Presidents (ICoP's) is a committee of the Interact club officers, advisers, and Rotarians that meet several times throughout the year to foster inter-club collaboration and promote district-wide initiatives. The goal of ICoP's to strengthen the partnerships between the Interact Clubs in Rotary District 7980 and engage more Interactors at the district level of Rotary.

ICoP's meetings provide the necessary platform for Interact club chapters to share ideas with other clubs, request volunteers for an upcoming project, or propose a district-wide initiative that every Interact club can partake in. Information regarding upcoming district Youth Service events is also shared at these meetings, helping to keep clubs informed throughout the year.

While ICoP's meetings are under the direction of the Interact Executive Board, individual Interact club chapters are typically selected to host the meetings. Interact clubs will be given an allowance by the district to secure a venue, food, and other

accommodations for the meeting. Information about Rotary District events are usually discussed and shared at these meetings, which the Interact club leadership can then relay back to their respective club.

All Interact club officers, faculty advisers, and Rotarian advisers are invited to partake in ICoP's. This allows for stronger collaboration as a district and amplifies our impact both locally and abroad. For more information about ICoP's, contact a member of the Interact Executive Committee (see Resources).

Rotarian Adviser

Role Description

The Rotarian adviser plays a major role in the club's support of its Interact club. The adviser attends the board meetings of school-based clubs and all meetings of community-based clubs. Rotarian adviser responsibilities include:

- Counseling Interactors when they plan service projects or fundraising activities
- Acting as a liaison between the Rotary club and the Interactors and between the Rotary club and the faculty adviser (for school-based clubs)
- Overseeing the Interact club's elections each year and reporting the names and contact information of new officers to the district Interact committee.

Sponsor Rotary Club

The Rotarian adviser is responsible for nurturing the relationship between the Interact club and its sponsoring Rotary club. Rotary clubs are encouraged to create a lasting bond with Interact clubs in these ways:

- Invite Interactors to Rotary club meetings to report on their activities.
- Create an annual joint Rotary and Interact service project and participate in World Interact Week.
- Show Interactors how to produce a club newsletter and Web site.
- Help Interact clubs develop strategies for recruiting and retaining members.
- Establish a recognition program to acknowledge Interactors' achievements.
- Publicize Interactors' accomplishments to the community and the Rotary world.
- Inform Interactors of other Rotary International or Rotary Foundation programs available to them.
- Ask Interact club officers to meet with the district governor during the governor's official Rotary club visit.
- Invite Interactors to district conferences to showcase club activities and to network with Rotarians.

Faculty Adviser

Role Description

An Interact club's faculty adviser is a faculty member at a school-based club who oversees club activities and serves as a liaison between the sponsoring Rotary club and the school administration. Faculty advisers are essential to the success of their Interact club. They must attend all meetings, assist with service projects, provide guidance to the club's board of directors, and liaise between the school administration and sponsoring Rotary club.

Meetings

- Help with arranging meeting dates and times, but allow Interactors to carry out meetings.
- Attend all club meetings and ensure they run smoothly.
- Assist with campaigns and elections of Interact officers.
- Help with guest speaker arrangements.

Projects

- Advise on service project implementation, especially for in-school activities.
- Maintain a calendar of Interact events to avoid conflicting with other school activities.
- Attend all Interact activities outside of school hours, or help arrange transportation and chaperones.
- Arrange logistics of project sites and any equipment needs.
- Determine if projects require special school approval or additional insurance.
- Coordinate joint fundraising and service activities with the sponsoring Rotary club.

Interact Club Officers

- Coordinate a leadership training workshop for new officers.
- Assist the board members in understanding their duties and reporting their activities to other members of the club.
- Verify that Interact committees meet their requirements and deadlines.
- Recommend that Interactors participate in leadership seminars and any other Rotary-sponsored youth opportunities. This includes, but is not limited to, RYLA, Next Generations, District Interact Assemblies, and ICoP's.
- Keep the board members organized, realistic in their expectations and limitations, and focused on the goals of the club.

Ongoing Support

- Help maintain accurate club records and documentation, and monitor the flow of club funds.
- Oversee editing, publication, distribution, and announcement of Interact newsletters.
- Guide efforts to recruit members.
- Work on Interact promotion with the school newspaper staff and local media.

School Administration

- Verify that members meet school academic requirements.
- Approve all Interact-related announcements and communications.
- Act as a liaison between the sponsoring Rotary club and the school principal, faculty, and staff.
- Gain support from colleagues and parents.
- Keep apprised of changing school policies that can affect the administration of the Interact club.

Risk Management

Risk management involves identifying events or situations that may cause harm to a person or damage property, and implementing solutions to minimize or reduce these risks. Recognizing the importance of protecting any young person involved in a Rotary-sponsored activity, the RI Board of Directors has adopted the following Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth:

Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come into contact through Rotary.

A risk management program can provide a basis for understanding what risks are possible in your Interact program, so that participants may make good choices in dealing with these risks. Injury, illness, abuse, and other risks are inherent in many aspects of our society. Although a risk management program cannot guarantee elimination of all risks, it can reduce the number and effect of negative occurrences.

Interact clubs in the United States are covered under RI's general liability insurance program.

Faculty advisers should be aware it is recommended that the Rotary club or district consult its legal counsel before signing any agreement or contract with any organization, contractor, or service provider. Such agreements may contain waivers or hold-harmless or indemnification agreements that may attempt to release a party from liability and transfer the risk to your club or district. Should a questionable situation arise, you are encouraged to contact local authorities for consultation or assistance. Finally, be aware that Rotary International is not liable for any illness or personal injury or for property damage.

Tips for Making Your Interact Club a Success

The success of an Interact club depends greatly on the strength and participation of its advisers. Experienced advisers have shared the following tips:

- Dedicate yourself to your role. Interact advising requires a substantial time commitment.
- A consistent faculty adviser is important to a club's success.
- Maintain a positive and enthusiastic attitude.
- Work closely with the Rotarian adviser.
- Realize that new clubs need more guidance. Be willing to ask questions and seek assistance from the Rotary club, your school, and community.
- Invite Rotarians to attend and speak at Interact club meetings regularly.
- Know the community and its resources.
- Be aware of other service clubs in the school and community, and maintain positive, cooperative relationships with them.
- Allow Interactors to fail since it can be a good learning experience. But step in if risk management issues are compromised.
- Encourage Interactors to resolve disagreements on their own, but arbitrate when necessary.
- Motivate by praising successes, and encourage optimism when activities fail.
- Realize that youth activities change throughout the year, and emphasize the importance of consistent attendance.
- Work with other Interact clubs and advisers in the district.
- Communicate regularly with the district Interact chair and suggest that an annual district adviser training seminar be organized.
- Encourage Interactors to participate in district training events offered in the area.

Annual District Events

Rotary District 7980 hosts events and conferences for youth throughout the year. The Interact Executive Committee notifies Interactors and advisers of upcoming events; however, you are encouraged to contact them for more information. Below are some typical annual events:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| • Interact-Rotaract Joint Assembly | Autumn & Spring |
| • Interact Council of Presidents (ICoP's) | Bimonthly |
| • Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) | Autumn & Spring |
| • Next Generations | Late Winter |
| • Rotary District Conference | Spring |

Contacts & Resources

There are a variety of district contacts and resources to support the efforts of Interact clubs and to develop their service projects:

District Contact Information

Rotary International District 7980

Southern Connecticut, USA

District Website: <http://rotary7980.org>

Youth Service Website: <http://rotaryyouthservices7980.com>

Youth Service Chairperson

Contact the Youth Service Chairperson with questions about the Youth Service programs in Rotary District 7980.

G. Justin Phillips

District 7980 Youth Service Chairperson

Tel.: 917-374-5808

Email: gjustinphillips@me.com

Interact Executive Committee

Contact members of the Interact Executive Committee with questions regarding the district Interact program, the fall and spring Interact Assemblies, Interact Council of Presidents meetings, district service projects, and the formation of new Interact clubs. The district officers can also speak to experiences from their own Interact clubs and answer questions regarding the operation of Interact clubs.

Ronald F. Webb

District 7980 Interact Co-Chair

Email: ronwebb@snet.net

District Interact Officers

Email: InteractClubsD7980@gmail.com

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/interact7980/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Interact7980>

Tumblr: <http://interact7980.tumblr.com/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/interact7980>

District Youth Service Web Site

<http://www.rotaryyouthservices7980.com>

The Interact section on Rotary District 7980's Youth Service Web site contains program news and updates, event dates and locations, resources for download, and Interact photographs. The site can also help you learn about other Rotary-sponsored programs (such as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Next Generations, and Rotaract).

District Mailings

Throughout the year, the Interact Executive Committee sends updates via email to all Interactors and advisers. Announcements are also posted on the Interact section of the Youth Service website and social media. If you are receiving district emails, please contact the Interact Executive Committee.

Interact Publications

Several publications can help you organize and administer an Interact program. The following items are available on the District 7980 Youth Service Website:

- [*Rotary International Interact Handbook*](#) — A comprehensive program resource that includes information on organizing and maintaining an Interact club. It includes project examples, forms, and constitutional documents.
- [*Interact Promotional Card*](#) — A promotional piece to inform potential members about club activities and purpose.

Resources for Service Projects

Rotary club community service information and activities can easily be adapted to fit Interact clubs. The following publications provide valuable details on how to select, plan, implement, and evaluate service projects and highlight many successful ones:

- [*Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects*](#)
- [*A Menu of Service Opportunities*](#)