

Interact

Rotary Sponsored Club



INTERACT: LEADERS OF TOMORROW

September 25th, 2016

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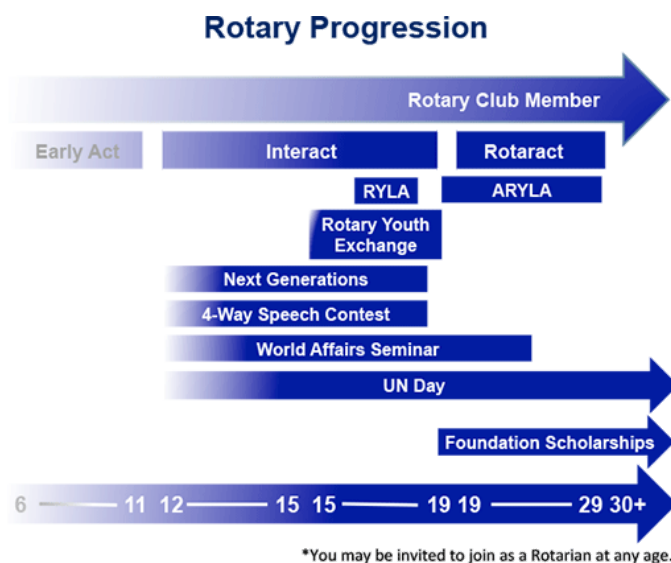
INTERACT: BACKGROUND

A little bit about Interact:

- The name Interact - a combination of the English words "International" and "Action" - highlights the international aspect of the program. Clubs are located throughout the world.
 - In fact, more than 118,000 young people belonging to Interact live in 85 countries - some in temperate, some in tropical and some in colder regions.
- Every Interact club carries out at least two service projects a year: one that helps your school or community and one that promotes international understanding.

Mission Statement: Interact District of Rotary District 7980 - To create an awareness of the importance of service to the inadequate and to emphasize acceptance of individual responsibility as the basis of personal success, community improvement and group achievement.

What is the Interact Executive Committee? -- The Interact Executive Committee consists of Interact Co-Chairs (Rotarians) and District Officers (Interactors). This committee serves 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. Committee members can provide your club with the latest information and answer questions you may have about the Interact program. Area Representatives are the prime contact for updating club information and staying in touch with the rest of the district.



STARTING AN INTERACT CLUB

Background:

- Youth ages -- 12-18
- Service projects for your community or school
- Learning about the world
- Interact Clubs organize at least 2 service projects per year
 - 1 that benefits their community
 - 1 that encourages international understanding
 - Ex. 15,000 Interact Clubs in 142 countries

Step 1 - Establish Rotary Club Support

- Form an Interact subcommittee to study the requirements of sponsorship
- Talk with the District Interact chairperson to learn how other Interact Clubs operate
- The Interact subcommittee presents its findings to its local Rotary Club
 - Making a persuasive presentation
 - Emphasize the importance of Rotarian involvement in the community
 - Invite current Interactors from other clubs to share positive experiences
- The Rotary Club Board will approve the sponsorship of an Interact Club
 - Costs to create an interact club are minimal, however money is needed for publicity and other expenses

Step 2 - Identify a Club Base

- After approving a sponsorship, choose one local rotarian to be an advisor
- Advisor must be committed and willing to dedicate a “good” amount of time
- Clubs must be either community-based or school-based
 - Community-based clubs draw members from several high school within a Rotary Club’s area
 - School-based clubs draws its members from one school. In this situation, the Rotary advisor can split their responsibilities with a school advisor/liaison
- Sources of Interact members
 - Community centers
 - Religious organizations
 - Relatives of Rotarians
 - Rotary Youth Exchange, Next Generations, Rotary Youth Leadership Award. and Middle Act participants and honorees

Step 3 - Informational Meeting

- Hold an informational meeting and invite:
 - Prospective members
 - Sponsoring Rotary Club President
 - Rotarian Advisor
 - Faculty Advisor (if a school-based club)
- Overview of meeting
 - Explain policies and goals of Interact
 - Include summary of recent Interact projects in the district
 - Emphasize the internationality of Rotary and the Interact Club
 - Take a vote to confirm there is enough interest for the Interact Club
 - Please note that you must have 10-15 interested members
 - If enough support is generated, set a date for the first meeting

Step 4 - Organizational Meetings

- Hold elections for club officers, which can include but is not limited to:
 - President, vice-president, treasurer, secretary
- Determine club budget
- Develop a membership plan to ensure that the club has enough members at all times
- Determine club meeting location
 - Clubs must meet at least twice a month
- Begin brainstorming service activities and fundraising events
- Familiarize club members with Interact Constitutional documents

Step 5 - Paperwork

- Complete paperwork and give it to your Rotary Club
 - For more information, please contact the District Board

Step 6 (optional)

- Plan inaugural ceremony

MAINTAINING YOUR INTERACT CLUB

The guide contains information relating to the recommended methods to run your Interact Club. If you are new/returning club officer, please give this guide a quick read

Step 1 - Run Regular Meetings

- Your club should meet at least every month, but feel free to have more as you see fit
- Meetings should follow an agenda set by the officers and/or advisers as deemed fit
- Make sure to keep track of attendance and minutes for each meeting
 - When tracking attendance, please track how many members you have in each grade and how many members are male vs. female. This will help with the district recap
- You should use meetings not only to focus on your club's service and volunteer projects, but also to encourage new members to become involved so that your club may grow

Step 2 - Service Projects

- Your club should have two major service projects each year, with one project working directly in the community and the second one promoting international understanding
 - Community projects should work to fulfill some need in your local town or area. Many clubs have worked with food pantries, youth groups, senior centers, etc on various projects. Going to your town Rotary is a great way to figure out your area's needs
 - Your international project should work to encourage international understanding through service. Clubs should focus these projects into one of Rotary's main focus areas, such as promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies
 - While the bare minimum requirement is two projects per year, clubs should feel free to do more projects as they see fit. Talking to your club's sponsoring Rotary is a great way to go about this, and shows your club's dedication.
- **Step 3 - District Events and Activities**
 - Another great way to keep your club active is to become involved in various District events such as RYLA and Next Generations (see details for each bellow).

These events serve to promote leadership and service, but also allow for a fair bit of networking between clubs within the district

- RYLA - The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards is a biannual conference that occurs once in spring and once in fall. This conference lasts for three days during each session and focuses on a mix of leadership, communication, and trust building activities. Attendees are typically nominated to RYLA by their club's Rotary
- Next Generations- The Next Generations conference is a single day event that focuses on creating an environment in which common social issues faced by today's youth may be discussed, while also encouraging those youths to develop a positive set of leadership skills in doing so. It is highly recommended for new Interactors

- **Step 4 - Member Recruitment and Publicity**

- Making sure to actively recruit new members will be highly beneficial (not to mention fun) for your club in the long term. Making posters, putting out announcements, and making a social media presence for your club can go a long way towards making your club active and sustainable.
- Publicity will go along way for your club. Having a Facebook or Twitter page for your club allows you to show off what your club is working on to the community, which can attract more members and attention from your Rotary
- There is also a Facebook page for Interact Clubs in District 7980. Feel free to join; There are many opportunities to share what your club is doing with the district and connect with other clubs:

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

- **Step 5 - Important Dates and Contact Information**

- The following dates are highly important for your club. Information and forms are available on <http://rotaryyouthservices7980.com/> as needed.
 - Citations and Yearly Recaps are due by - May 2016
 - The dates may be adjusted as the year goes on. Make sure your club receives the District 7980 Newsletter to stay informed of any changes
 - Should you have any questions, feel free to contact anyone on the district board. They can be reached with the following email:
interactclubsd7980@gmail.com

HOW TO RUN A PROPER MEETING

1. **Make your purpose clear.**

A meeting must have a specific and defined objective. An unfocused meeting is worth absolutely nothing to your club. Before you send a reminder email to text, ask yourself: What do I seek to accomplish? Are you seeking input from others on a club issue? Are you looking to arrive at a decision on a particular matter? Standing meetings with vague purposes are rarely a good use of time.

2. **Stick to your schedule.**

Create an agenda that lays out everything you plan to cover in the meeting, along with a timeline that allots a certain number of minutes to each item, and email it to people in advance. Once you're in the meeting, put that agenda up on a screen or whiteboard for others to see. This keeps people focused. You may also distribute paper or electronic copies.

3. **Take no hostages.**

Nothing derails a meeting faster than one person talking more than his fair share. If you notice one person monopolizing the conversation, call him out. Say "We appreciate your contributions, but now we need input from others before making a decision." Be public about it. Establishing ground rules early on will create framework for how your group functions.

4. **Prewire important points and decisions.**

From time to time, major decisions will be discussed in meetings. Serious decisions like this require a pre-wiring habit. In essence, you communicate with people one-on-one before the meeting about the decision before the meeting occurs. While time consuming, this approach increases your chances of success (and avoids surprising other meeting attendees).

5. **Start on time, end on time.**

If you have responsibility for running regular meetings (as a club president or officer) and you have a reputation for being someone who starts and ends promptly, you will be amazed by how many students will make every effort to attend your meetings. People appreciate it when you understand that their time is valuable. Another note on time: Do not schedule any meeting to last longer than one hour. One hour is generally the longest time that high school students can give you their full attention.

THE ROLE OF CLUB OFFICERS

In the Rotary world officer positions come in four different forms, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Though these are the basic roles there are many different way arrange them and supplement your “Rotary Board” so don’t feel completely limited by the basic standard (as long as your club’s sponsor agrees to them).

Based in Rotary International’s bylaws the following is a description of each position:

President:

- Presides over the club
- Directs club meetings
- Appoints club chairs
- Most direct connection to the Rotary liaison

Vice- President:

- Aide’s president in directing meetings
- Collaborates with president in appointing chairs
- Takes over whenever president unavailable

Secretary

- Take notes during each club meeting
- Make information available for all club members (especially those unattended)
- Takes attendance

Treasurer

- Keeps track of club’s available funds
- Collects club dues, donations, etc.
- Works in conjunction with the club advisor for the club bank account

These four positions do not need to be final! As a club you have the ability to add or subtract officer positions to best suit the type of club you are a part of. This means that having “co-presidents” rather than a president and a vice, adding an “discussion board” to talk out ideas for large events, or even an official club “historian” to take pictures of all your events and meetings are all options for you own unique club.

DISTRICT-WIDE SERVICE PROJECT

Your task: Come up with a project that will help contribute to the Area of Focus you feel most passionate about. You will have to present your project to a board of judges. The winning area of focus will be the theme of the district for the year, and the project will be the district event in the spring. Be creative, have fun, and good luck!

Peace and Conflict Resolution/Prevention

Today, 65 million people are displaced by armed conflict or persecution. Through our partnerships with several leading universities, Rotary Peace Fellows develop the skills to strengthen peace efforts, train local leaders to prevent and mediate conflict, and support long-term peace building in areas affected by conflict. We provide up to 100 peace fellowships per year at Rotary Peace Centers.

Disease Prevention and Treatment

More than 100 million people are pushed into poverty each year because of medical costs. We aim to improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in underdeveloped areas. Our members educate and mobilize communities to help prevent the spread of major diseases such as polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. Many of our projects ensure that medical training facilities are located where the workforce lives.

Water and Sanitation

More than 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities. At least 3,000 children die each day from diarrheal diseases caused by unsafe water. Our projects give communities the ability to develop and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems and support studies related to water and sanitation.

Maternal and Child Health

At least 7 million children under the age of five die each year due to malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. To help reduce this rate, we provide immunizations and antibiotics to babies, improve access to essential medical services, and support trained health care providers for mothers and their children. Our projects ensure sustainability by empowering the local community to take ownership of health care training programs.

Basic Education and Literacy

Sixty-seven million children worldwide have no access to education and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

Economic and Community Development

Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than \$1.25 a day. We carry out service projects that enhance economic and community development and develop opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old. We also help strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities

To learn more about Rotary's Six Areas of Focus, go to

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/areas-focus>

CLUB ACTIVITY IDEAS

Cereal Drive

Credits to - Mark T. Sheehan High School

Summary - Members of this Interact Club worked to collect cereal for two weeks in the main lobby at their school. At the end, they donated over 100 boxes of cereal to their town pantry known as Masters Manna.

Pasta Night

Credits to - Guilford High School

Summary - The GHS Interact has hosted their annual pasta night event for the past nine years. For this, they contacted local organizations to have a place to host their event, as well as local businesses who would be willing to donate food or supply it at a low cost. Members work together to sell tickets, make decorations, serve food, think of fun activities to do during the event, and more. In 2015, they raised over \$1,100 with all proceeds going to their local food bank.

STEP: Tutoring Younger Students

Credits to - Trumbull High School

Summary - The THS Interact Club designed a service project that helped students in elementary school who were preparing to take their CMTs. They partnered with the Board of Education to find students who were struggling in areas such as reading, writing, and math, and helped tutor them for about 10-15 weeks. This created an affordable and convenient option for parents and helped many students along the way.

Cooking Breakfast for Members of the Community

Credits to - East Hampton High School

Summary - This event is known as “Breakfast with Santa” to members of the EHHS Interact Club. The members of their Rotary Club would cook the food, with the Interact Members doing the service and working to organize the event. In just under four hours, they were able to serve over a thousand meals for free to the members of their community.

Socks for Love

Credits to - Hamden High School

Summary - Members of the club helped stuff socks full of food, toiletries, and other necessities for homeless families. It was able to bring connections between the students and the families.

Man's Inhumanity to Man

Credits to - Ridgefield Interact Club

Summary - The RHS Interact Club organizes an assembly called “Man's Inhumanity to Man” where they talk about and bring in speakers to discuss genocides that have occurred throughout the world. They also discuss how to create a better community and world.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Credits to - East Lyme High School

Summary - Members spend the majority of a day at a local grocery store collecting money and food donations from the shoppers and cars going by. In the inside of the store, there are premade prepared packages for a base price (\$10, \$20, etc). On top of that, they have a local radio station attend playing music and announcing it all over the radio to keep attracting more people to come.

There are plenty of possibilities for service projects, volunteer work, and fundraisers that your club can start and get involved with! Just have your members think about what they are passionate about and go from there! Here's just a few more of the *many* other possibilities there are.

- Volunteering at soup kitchens
- Organizing a book drive
- Visiting the elderly
- Have a collaborative project with another school - maybe some type of competition to boost participation?
- Organize a golf, badminton, kickball, or other types of tournaments with an entrance fee
- Beach, park, or other community location clean-ups

Youth Services Calendar 2016-2017

<i>September 25</i>	Leaders of Tomorrow Conference
<i>October 8-9</i>	RYLA Facilitators Training Weekend
<i>October 14</i>	Fall RYLA applications DUE
<i>October ~</i>	Youth Exchange outbound applications DUE
<i>October 28-30</i>	Fall RYLA
<i>November 12</i>	Rotary Day at the United Nations
<i>November 19</i>	Next Generations Facilitator Meeting
<i>November 19</i>	Youth Exchange Outbound Interviews
<i>January 7-8</i>	Youth Exchange Outbound/Inbound Orientation
<i>January 7</i>	Next Generations Facilitator Meeting
<i>February 4</i>	Next Generations Facilitator Meeting
<i>February 25</i>	Next Generations
<i>March ~</i>	Leadership/Officer Selections DUE
<i>April 14</i>	Spring RYLA Applications DUE
<i>April 28-30</i>	Spring RYLA
<i>April 27-30</i>	Rotary District Conference
<i>April 27-30</i>	Spring Orientation for Youth Exchange
<i>May 31</i>	GLI Applications DUE
<i>June ~</i>	World Affairs Seminar
<i>June ~</i>	RI Rotaract Convention

Not all the dates are definite, may be subject to change. More events will take place as the year goes on.

CONTACT INFO: DISTRICT BOARD

Name	Position	School	Email
Keerthi (Kiki) Yalamanchili	District Representative	Trumbull High School	kiki_yalamanchili@yahoo.com
Rockib Uddin	District Representative	Hamden High School	uddinr17@gmail.com
Andre Kish	Junior District Representative	Guilford High School	andre.kish@outlook.com
Derek Wood	Social Media Representative	Mark T. Sheehan High School	dvwood12498@gmail.com
Jessica Lee	Area Representative	Ridgefield High School	jessicalee51246@gmail.com
Joe Coss	Area Representative	Notre Dame High School	jcoss2018@notredamehs.com
Conrad Poole	Area Representative	Guilford High School	cjp1357@gmail.com
Pauline Goetz	Area Representative	East Lyme High School	paulinegoetz00@gmail.com

YOUTH SERVICES INTERACT CHAIR

Mr. Mark Morgano	Youth Services Interact Chair	Rotary Club of East Hampton	memorgano@gmail.com
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