DESIGNING YOUR ROTARY EXPERIENCE

GET INVOLVED IN WAYS THAT MATTER TO YOU

Rotary offers benefits for people of all ages and backgrounds. From learning more about the world to learning more about yourself, you can grow by engaging with Rotary's global network and the array of activities, programs, and interest groups that Rotary offers.

When you get involved in Rotary, whether as a Rotarian, Rotaractor, or program participant, you expand your perspective by honing your skills, learning from professionals, making new connections, and making a difference in your community and around the world.

We know that each member has a unique combination of interests, skills, and talents, and so each member will be attracted to different activities. This guide describes the options you can choose from to personalize your Rotary experience and get involved in ways that matter to you.

Rotary

MAKE CONNECTIONS

Rotary is a global community with 1.4 million Rotarians and Rotaractors from clubs in nearly every country. This means you can connect with others near home or across the globe. Here are some ways you can make connections through Rotary.

ATTEND CLUB MEETINGS AND EVENTS.

Introduce yourself to members in your club to get to know them better. Being genuinely interested in others shows people you value them, and these small interactions can lead to lasting friendships.

CREATE A MY ROTARY ACCOUNT.

When you register for a My Rotary account and create a profile, you can access Rotary's online tools and locate and connect with members near and far using the Find a Member tool.

ATTEND DISTRICT MEETINGS AND EVENTS.

Clubs are grouped into more than 500 districts worldwide. By connecting with other clubs and leaders in your district, you can learn how to get involved in Rotary beyond your club and make a greater impact.

GET INVOLVED WITH CLUB INITIATIVES.

Volunteering to take part in a project, attend a meeting, or serve in a club role, such as being on a committee, will let you work with others in meaningful ways and contribute to your club's impact. You can also suggest speakers from service and project partners or from other organizations that share Rotary's values. Ask your club how you can help.

VISIT ANOTHER CLUB.

You can locate Rotary and Rotaract club meetings to attend using the Find a Club tool. You might think of ways to collaborate on club activities or hear of an idea you want to try with your club. Visiting other clubs fosters new connections and inspiration.

JOIN A ROTARY FELLOWSHIP.

Meet others with similar interests by joining a Rotary Fellowship, an international group of people with a common hobby, identity, culture, or vocation. This is a fun way to make friends and explore a pastime or profession.

JOIN A ROTARY ACTION GROUP.

These include people around the world who have expertise and passion in a particular area, such as economic development, education, the environment, or safe water. Join a Rotary Action Group to share your knowledge, develop your skills, and make professional and personal connections.

PARTICIPATE IN A ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE.

Experience different cultures and build international understanding and friendships. This program for Rotary members and friends prioritizes cultural immersion, international service, or vocational exchanges. Friendship Exchange participants take turns hosting one another in their homes and clubs.

ATTEND A PROJECT FAIR.

Meet people with whom you can collaborate on international projects. Project fairs typically last two or three days and can include visits to project sites as well as opportunities to experience the local culture. These activities let visitors learn about the community and build long-lasting relationships with their hosts.

ATTEND THE CONVENTION.

The Rotary International Convention is held in a different international city each year. You'll meet members from around the world, learn how to expand our impact, and enjoy inspiring talks from global leaders, celebrities, and activists.

PARTICIPATE IN MEANINGFUL SERVICE

Making a difference in the community is one of the top reasons people get involved in Rotary. We channel this commitment through five Avenues of Service — Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service, and Youth Service. Here are some ways you can take part in meaningful service through Rotary.

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB.

You can help your club thrive by offering your expertise and skills through serving as a club officer, as a committee member, or in another role.

PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES.

Find out what projects your club, neighboring clubs, and your district are working on and volunteer for one or more. Work with partners or conduct a community assessment to identify projects that would benefit your local area.

PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS.

Many clubs partner with clubs in other parts of the world to address a need in one of their communities. Together, they have more time and funding, as well as the expertise of members, partners, and Rotary program alumni to bring about sustainable, positive change. Find a project and get involved.

USE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE.

Many districts have a district resource network of local experts who can use their experience, technical knowledge, and project-planning skills to assist clubs in the design and implementation of meaningful projects. Contact your district international service chair to offer your skills to mentor clubs and improve communities.

SUPPORT AN INTERACT CLUB.

Interact clubs bring together people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while participating in service. If your club sponsors or co-sponsors an Interact club, you can help empower Interactors to make a difference in their communities and globally by supporting their service-learning projects.

PARTICIPATE IN ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS.

RYLA events provide opportunities to build leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills, while having fun and forming lasting friendships. Talk to your club and district leaders about getting involved by nominating participants or assisting event organizers.

WORK WITH A ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS.

These groups of nonmembers partner with local Rotary and Rotaract clubs on service projects. By working with a Rotary Community Corps, you can build engagement in the area and make your projects more sustainable by positioning local leaders to pioneer change.

USE YOUR SKILLS WITH A ROTARY ACTION GROUP.

Use your professional skills to make a sustainable impact locally and globally through one of Rotary's more than 25 action groups. By leveraging people's expertise and our global network, Rotary Action Groups help clubs and districts plan and implement meaningful, large-scale humanitarian service projects.

APPLY FOR A GRANT.

If your project meets certain requirements, it might be eligible for funding from The Rotary Foundation. Explore the grant types and find one that's right for your project.

JOIN THE EFFORT TO ERADICATE POLIO.

Raise awareness about Rotary's work to end polio, donate to the PolioPlus Fund, or volunteer for a National Immunization Day. Post about polio on social media or include a link to endpolio.org in your email signature. Write to us to learn about upcoming trips for NIDs.

SUPPORT ROTARY'S CURRENT WORK.

You can do this by giving to The Rotary Foundation, which sustains thousands of projects in your community and around the world. The Foundation supports projects and programs that transform lives by addressing poverty, disease, conflict, and lack of education and water.

BECOME A LEADER

Rotary offers many opportunities to develop your leadership capabilities. Whether you're interested in a club or district role or in building new skills, leadership can be a cornerstone of your Rotary experience. Here are ways you can become a leader through Rotary.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH YOUR CLUB.

You can help your club achieve its goals, improve its projects, and enhance the member experience. Clubs can evolve by being receptive to new and diverse perspectives, and your suggestion could become the next big initiative in your club or community.

EXPLORE LEADERSHIP COURSES.

Use Rotary's Learning Center to improve and practice your skills. Rotary's professional development courses include topics such as resolving conflict, public speaking, and networking. You need to have a My Rotary account, so be sure to register if you haven't already.

GIVE A SPEECH AT A CLUB MEETING.

Introduce yourself or discuss an area of expertise in order to practice your presentation skills. If your club meetings don't offer this opportunity, suggest it to your club leaders or contact your local Toastmasters club and ask to be a guest speaker.

BECOME A MENTOR.

Share your professional expertise, community knowledge, or Rotary information as a mentor. Ask if your club has a mentoring program, and if not, propose starting one. Take the Mentoring Basics course and learn to use your experience to help others grow.

LEAD YOUR CLUB.

Find out what committees and other leadership opportunities your club has, and volunteer for one that interests you. You'll learn more about your club and Rotary and gain skills in the process. Explore the Club Leadership catalog to find out about these roles.

ORGANIZE A CLUB EVENT.

Volunteer to coordinate a social gathering or service project, and gain skills including collaboration, public speaking, or managing other volunteers.

LEAD YOUR DISTRICT.

If you've served as a club leader and want to get more involved, find out how to do so at the district level. Learn about district roles with the District Leadership catalog and talk to your club and district leaders about available opportunities.

BUILD PEACE.

Join the Rotary Positive Peace Academy, created with Rotary's partner, the Institute for Economics and Peace, to learn about building and sustaining peace and the Positive Peace framework. Learn about the Rotary Peace Centers program, which trains leaders from communities around the world to address peace and development issues.

SERVE IN INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES.

Lead global groups of communities of people with similar interests, hobbies, professions, and passions by serving in a leadership role in a Rotary Fellowship or Rotary Action Group.

EXPAND YOUR PERSPECTIVE

When you make connections, participate in meaningful service, and take leadership roles, you'll inevitably develop and expand your perspective. Here are more ways you can experience personal growth and expand your perspective through Rotary.

PERFORM ACTS OF KINDNESS.

Being gracious and caring empowers all parties involved and contributes to people's mental well-being. In Rotary, you have many opportunities to make a positive impact on someone's life by expressing kindness.

TAKE COURSES IN THE LEARNING CENTER.

Beyond the courses mentioned elsewhere in this guide, you can find online courses about specific Rotary programs, policies, and leadership roles, as well as more general skill development. Courses are available in more than 20 languages.

CONNECT WITH TOASTMASTERS.

Rotary's alliance with Toastmasters International means you can take leadership courses to develop and practice your skills. You can also visit a meeting or work with a Toastmasters club on joint initiatives.

ATTEND LEARNING EVENTS.

Connect with other members in your area by taking part in one of these informational events offered by your district. You'll learn more about Rotary and other clubs in your community. Visit your district's website or contact your club leaders to find out when your district's next event will occur.

WELCOME A YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT.

If your district is certified to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange, you can offer to host or help welcome a student from another country, learn about their culture, share your culture with them, and create a memorable learning experience.

EXPLORE OTHER CULTURES.

Because Rotary and Rotaract clubs are all over the world, you can visit clubs when you travel and experience how diverse clubs in other towns or countries are. In addition to programs like Friendship Exchange or Youth Exchange, this is a way to broaden your intercultural understanding, build friendships, and learn about a region's history and customs.

HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED?

With so many ways to get involved, you can design the Rotary experience that suits you best. Talk to your fellow club members and leaders and share your interests and ideas. Take an active role in shaping your club. All of this will allow you to get the most out of your Rotary experience!