

CHAPTER V – PROGRAMS

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40.010. Definitions of Rotary Programs

Rotary's programs are defined as an integrated set of resources and activities supported by the general secretary and geared to provide service(s) to Rotarians, Rotaractors, and other participants.

40.010.1. Rotary Programs and Global Networking Groups

The following Rotary programs are organized activities recognized by the RI Board for clubs and districts:

- Interact
- Rotary Community Corps
- Rotary Friendship Exchange
- Rotary Youth Exchange
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
- Rotary Action Groups
- Rotary Fellowships

(October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 22)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; September 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 23; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111; May 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138; October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 22

40.010.2. Definition of Program Participants

Program participants are those individuals who currently participate in RI and Rotary Foundation programs, including:

- Interact
- Rotary Action Groups
- Rotary Community Corps
- Rotary Fellowships
- Rotary Friendship Exchange
- Rotary Youth Exchange
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
- Rotary Peace Fellowships
- Global Grant Scholarships
- Vocational training teams (members and leaders)
- District Grant Scholarships

(October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 22)

Source: September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28;

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; May 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138; October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 22

40.020. Evaluation

40.020.1. Strategic Alignment Evaluation

The Operations Review Committee will have primary responsibility for overseeing an evaluation framework to determine if programs are aligned with Rotary's strategic plan.

The strategic alignment evaluation will be conducted through the following process:

1. An inventory of all Rotary programs will be created and maintained by the general secretary.
2. The general secretary will identify and inform the Board and Trustees of the programs being considered for strategic alignment evaluations.
3. The general secretary will prepare background papers on the selected programs for review and input by the Operations Review Committee, selected staff, and other committees as appropriate.
4. Using the information in the background papers, the programs will be evaluated by the Operations Review Committee, selected staff, and other committees as appropriate. The strategic alignment evaluation survey requests evaluators to score the programs based on the following three dimensions:
 - a. Program attractiveness
 - b. Competitive position

- c. Alternate coverage in the market
5. The Operations Review Committee reviews results of the evaluations and makes recommendations to the Board or Trustees regarding the strategic alignment, or lack thereof, to Rotary's strategic plan.
6. Based on the Board's or Trustees' decision regarding the strategic alignment, or lack thereof, the general secretary uses the evaluation survey results to take administrative action, which may include increasing program support, decreasing program support, eliminating program support, or no change in support.
7. The general secretary will report to the boards at least annually on the activity related to the strategic alignment evaluation

(April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111)

Source: June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155;

Amended by April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 144; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111

40.020.2. Programs Evaluation

All Rotary programs shall be evaluated on a regular basis determined by the general secretary, occurring at least every five years. The general secretary shall determine the appropriate evaluation criteria, taking into account:

1. intended purpose and objectives
2. return on investment at the corporate, multidistrict, district, and club levels
3. alignment with the Strategic Plan and the Areas of Focus
4. participation by districts and clubs
5. membership development
6. Rotary's public image

(May 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 187; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61;

Amended by November 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111; May 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138

Affirmed by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 404

40.030. Evaluation and Implementation of Proposed Rotary Programs

At any time, the general secretary, the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, or RI/TRF committee chairs (except for the Operations Review Committee chair) may recommend programs or offerings to the Operations Review Committee for initial strategic alignment review.

The Board and Trustees may consider adopting new Rotary programs only when:

1. the new program aligns with Rotary's strategic plan
2. an existing program of similar cost has been eliminated or reduced
3. the boards have has identified tangible expected results with defined measures of success to review actual results to expected results
4. the proposed program sponsor has submitted a complete program prospectus which specifies the new program's purpose and effect and indicates what is required to launch it successfully
5. there is sufficient time for adequate planning and preparation before the new program's implementation
6. there is sufficient staff and financial support for the first few years of the program
7. it is adopted initially as a three-year pilot program, after which the general secretary shall submit a detailed evaluation of the program to the Board, which shall then decide whether to continue it.

(April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111)

Source: June 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 337; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61;

Amended by October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 50; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111

40.030.1. Strategic Alignment Evaluation of Proposed Programs

Before any new Rotary program is adopted by the Board or Trustees, the Operations Review Committee will conduct its evaluation of proposed programs to determine if they are aligned with Rotary's strategic plan. The strategic alignment evaluation for proposed programs will be conducted through the following process:

1. The proposed program sponsors will prepare a background paper with review and input from the Operations Review Committee, select staff, and other committees as appropriate
2. Using the background paper, proposed programs will then be evaluated by the Operations Review Committee, select staff, and committee chairs when applicable. The strategic alignment evaluation requests evaluators to score the proposed program based on the following three dimensions:
 - a. program attractiveness
 - b. competitive position
 - c. alternate coverage in the market
3. The Operations Review Committee reviews results of the evaluation and makes recommendations to the Board or Trustees to acknowledge the alignment, or lack thereof, to Rotary's strategic plan for the proposed program.

(April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111)

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142; March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 187;

Amended by August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61; October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 50; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87;
April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111

40.030.2. Adoption of New Programs

All decisions creating a new program that has human or financial resource requirements lasting beyond the current Rotary year must identify the following at the time of adoption:

1. A defined trial and evaluation period of three years
2. Anticipated impact on Rotary's resources for the duration of the trial and evaluation period
3. Criteria by which the success or failure of the program will be measured
4. Dates for interim evaluations and reports to the Board
5. Date of the final evaluation, following which the Board or Trustees may adopt it as a permanent program, terminate the program, or extend the trial and evaluation period as needed

If the Board or Trustees do not adopt or extend the program, it will terminate at the end of the trial and evaluation period. (*April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111*)

Source: June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155;

Amended by April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111

40.040. RI Corporate Projects

Until the PolioPlus program has been successfully completed, no other corporate projects will be considered. (*April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111

40.050. Rotary Alumni

40.050.1. Definition of Rotary Alumni

Rotary alumni are valued members of the Rotary family. They are distinguished by their shared Rotary values and past participation in Rotary programs. Rotary alumni are individuals who have experienced Rotary through various programs, including, but not limited to:

- Interact
- Rotaract
- Rotary Youth Exchange
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

- Rotary Peace Fellowships
- Global Grant Scholarships
- Vocational training teams (members and leaders)
- District Grant Scholarships
- New Generations Service Exchange
- Rotary Foundation awards to individuals in former TRF programs, such as:
 - Ambassadorial Scholarships
 - Grants for University Teachers
 - Group Study Exchange
 - Rotary Volunteers

(October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38)

Source: January 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89

Amended by October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38

40.050.2. Alumni Relations Activities

Districts are encouraged to consider the following actions to enhance relationships with Rotary Alumni in their districts and to help achieve the intended objectives of the programs in which they participated:

1. formally greet all Rotary Alumni upon their return home;
2. ensure that Rotary Alumni complete required presentations primarily in the sponsoring district, as required by their program's guidelines;
3. encourage Rotary Alumni to join a Rotary Alumni Association, or establish one if one does not already exist in their geographic area;
4. encourage Rotary Alumni to participate in Rotary projects;
5. arrange for articles on Rotary Alumni activities in appropriate publications;
6. invite Rotary Alumni to the district conference;
7. invite Rotary Alumni to annual dinners or other functions;
8. organize regular reunions of Rotary Alumni;
9. keep Rotary Alumni records current;
10. consider Rotary Alumni as potential Rotary members;
11. invite Rotary Alumni to contribute to the Foundation as appropriate;
12. invite Rotary Alumni to participate in the recruitment and selection processes for outbound program participants;
13. ask Rotary Alumni to participate in orientation programs for outbound program participants in the district;

14. encourage invitations to Rotary Alumni to attend or participate as speakers at special district and club functions.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29)

Source: January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117;

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

40.050.3. Rotary Alumni Associations

A Rotary Alumni Association is a group united to pursue service and fellowship. The primary purpose of an alumni association shall be to further friendship, fellowship, and service for those who share a common tie to Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. Rotary Alumni associations must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise.

The following are endorsed purposes to be served by Rotary Alumni associations:

1. To be a potential source of members for Rotary clubs
2. To provide support for Rotary programs, such as to orient and counsel outbound or returning program participants, to help with community service projects or initiate such projects as appropriate
3. To provide presentations and programs for Rotary clubs and districts, as well as relevant non-Rotary groups within their communities
4. To assist in creating and sustaining international good will
5. To be a potential source of financial support for Rotary programs
6. To engender a sense of pride in and identification with an outstanding group of men and women.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29)

Source: January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

40.050.4. Criteria for Charter of a Rotary Alumni Association and Terms of Rotary Alumni Associations

The general secretary has authority to recognize Rotary Alumni associations. Rotary Alumni association activities must be conducted independently of RI/TRF, but must be in harmony with RI/TRF policy, including those concerning the use of the Rotary Marks as set forth in the Rotary Code of Policies Article 34. Such associations may include alumni from a variety of RI or TRF programs or be exclusive to alumni from one program, such as Rotex, groups of former Rotary Youth Exchange students. Rotary Alumni Associations may not be formed or used to promote or participate in religious or political beliefs or activities, subjects that negatively affect health or safety, or subjects that are not in accord with the Object of Rotary or the overall policy and program of RI/TRF.

A Rotary Alumni association shall have a governing document (charter, constitution, bylaws, or similar document) which must be consistent with RI/TRF policy. All governing documents, and amendments thereto, must be reviewed and approved by the general secretary. A Rotary Alumni association shall be organized with at least two officers, one of whom shall be the chair (president or other administrative head). A Rotary Alumni association's membership shall be open to all who meet the membership criteria set out in the association's governing documents. Rotary Alumni associations may charge membership dues.

Applications for new Rotary Alumni associations shall be reviewed by the general secretary.

To be recognized as a chartered Rotary Alumni association under the Rotary Alumni network, an alumni association must:

1. Be a group of program participants, Rotary Alumni, and volunteers
2. Be organized in accordance with RI/TRF policy
3. Complete a Rotary Alumni association charter application form, with appropriate signatures as found on the application form, for review by the general secretary
4. Comply with RI policies concerning use of the Rotary Marks by Rotary Entities in Rotary Code section 34.040.13.

After review and approval of the charter application form by the general secretary, RI will issue a charter certificate to the Rotary Alumni association certifying the alumni association has been recognized.

Recognition of a Rotary Alumni association by RI/TRF in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI/TRF, or any district or club. A Rotary Alumni association may not act on behalf of RI/TRF, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI/TRF. A Rotary Alumni association is not an agency of RI/TRF. Rotary Alumni associations must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Rotary Alumni associations may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country. Individual Rotary Alumni associations are not covered by RI insurance and are encouraged to assess their own risk and secure coverage as appropriate. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29*)

Source: January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117;

Amended by September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28; June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29

40.050.5. Rotary Alumni Association Statement in Publications

Rotary Alumni association newsletters, publications, brochures, and websites must prominently display the statement "ROTARY" and "THE ROTARY FOUNDATION" are the intellectual property of Rotary International and are used herein by this Rotary Alumni association with permission in accordance with certain guidelines. This Rotary Alumni association operates in accordance with the policies of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, but is not an agency of or endorsed by, Rotary International or The Rotary

Foundation. Neither Rotary International nor The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International endorse the content hereof or the activities of this Rotary Alumni Association and accept no liability therefore.” Following is an example of how such language may be incorporated into a statement describing the Rotary Alumni association.

“District XXXX Rotary Alumni Association is a group of Rotary program participants, Rotary Alumni, and volunteers who are affiliated with Rotary District XXXX. “ROTARY” and “THE ROTARY FOUNDATION” are the intellectual property of Rotary International and are used herein by this Rotary Alumni association with permission in accordance with certain guidelines. This Rotary Alumni association operates in accordance with the policies of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, but is not an agency of or endorsed by, Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation. Neither Rotary International nor The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International endorse the content hereof or the activities of this Rotary Alumni association and accept no liability therefor.” *(January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117)*

Source: January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117

40.050.6. Rotary Alumni Association Suspension or Termination of Recognition

The general secretary may suspend or withdraw a Rotary Alumni association’s recognition, with or without the consent of the Rotary Alumni association’s officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI/TRF policy. Failure to respond to communications from the general secretary for a two-year period may result in withdrawal of recognition of the Rotary Alumni association.

Any Rotary Alumni association that is terminated by RI shall cease to receive services including staff support and listing in RI or TRF publications, and on the RI website. Any rights to use the Rotary Marks shall terminate upon termination of the alumni association including any right to use the ROTARY name in the name of the association.

To maintain its status as an alumni association, a Rotary Alumni association must:

1. Function in accordance with its recognized purpose and in accordance with RI/TRF policy
2. Respond to inquiries from members, potential members, and the general secretary

(January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99)

Source: January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99

40.050.7. Youth Protection

Rotary Alumni Associations must protect the safety and wellbeing of all youth participating in their activities and comply with Rotary International’s youth protection policies. A Rotary Alumni Association may not grant membership or affiliation to a person who is known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment or who is prohibited from being a member of a Rotary club. (Upon obtaining information that an alumni association has knowingly failed to

terminate the membership or affiliation of such an individual, the RI Board may terminate the alumni association for failure to comply). (*November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29;
Amended by November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

40.050.8. Rotary Alumni Associations and Other Organizations

In order to ensure coordination and cooperation with Rotary Entities and other Rotary related groups that may be involved in similar activities and avoid conflicts of interest, Rotary Alumni associations approaching other organizations for funds in excess of US\$25,000 or other cooperative relationships shall notify the general secretary in advance of any applications. This provision also applies to funds that will be disbursed to a third-party organization working with the Rotary Alumni association. (*January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117*)

Source: January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117

40.050.9. Rotary Alumni Association Circularization Policy

In concert with general RI/TRF policy prohibiting circularization, a Rotary Alumni association desiring to request the cooperation of districts, clubs or Rotarians in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the district governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her, or their approval.

No Rotary Alumni association shall solicit financial assistance or participation in commercial ventures from any Rotary district or club or from individual Rotarians other than its own members. (*January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117*)

Source: January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117

40.060. Rotary Recommended Programs

The Board, to acknowledge successful, data-driven, community-based projects that have proven successful across multiple regions and/or populations, has established the new program designation: “Rotary Recommended Programs” with the following criteria:

1. Program should be of sufficient scale (geographic or population) to affect substantive positive change and impact on the targeted community and or remediated issue.
2. Program must align with Rotary’s Strategic Plan.
3. Program must have reached proof of concept during previous years of operation and now be positioned to implement proven intervention based on data and impact.
4. Program must enhance Rotary’s impact in alignment with one or more of Rotary’s seven areas of focus.

5. Program should contribute to the ability of Rotary to expand its programmatic reach with the capacity to adapt at national and regional levels preferably across cultural and geographic boundaries.
6. Program must be structured with strong and proven policies and procedures, including program management, monitoring and evaluation, on-going reporting capacity and preferably training protocols enhancing replication capacity. The functions and contributions of Rotarians should be clearly defined as well as the functions and contributions of other partners whether implementing or financial.
7. Program funding sources would be external to the World Fund and represent additional resources for Rotary's international service. Ideally resources would emanate from the private sector, NGO sector and/or government sector.
8. Program should enhance partnership development opportunities both at an in-country level and an international level.
9. Program should be adaptive and innovative to accommodate regional and national implementation environments.
10. Program is required to meet Rotary marks and branding requirements.
11. Program must have strong in-country government endorsement.
12. Program would benefit from strong working relationships with affiliated Rotary organizations such as Rotary Actions Groups as well as ties to other Rotary service resources.

While this designation is determined by the general secretary and indicates Rotary's recognition, it does not imply any financial support from Rotary. (*September 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 23*)

Source: June 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176

Amended by September 2020 Mtg., bd. Dec. 23

ARTICLE 41 ROTARY PROGRAMS

- 41.010. Interact
- 41.020. Rotary Community Corps (RCC)
- 41.030. Rotary Friendship Exchange
- 41.040. Rotary Youth Exchange
- 41.050. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

41.010. **Interact**

Interact is a program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in June 1962.

The Interact program was developed and created by and is an activity of Rotary International, and the authority for the establishment and enforcement of constitutional provisions, organizational requirements and standards of procedure, and for the protection and preservation of the Interact name and logo is retained by Rotary International. *(April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127)*

Source: May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285

Amended by April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127

41.010.1. Purpose and Outcomes

1. The purposes of Interact are for:
 - a. sponsor club members to recognize the positive change implemented by youth and young adults as the fifth Avenue of Service, Youth Service, through an active and personal commitment to empower young people to take action through community and international service, develop leadership skills, and gain a global perspective that fosters world peace and cultural understanding; and for
 - b. students and youth to take action through community and international service, discover new cultures and promote international understanding as global citizens, develop skills to become school and community leaders, make friends locally and globally, and have fun while recognizing the importance of Service Above Self.
2. The goals of Interact are, but not limited to:
 - a. instill in young people a life-long commitment to service through youth-led activities that address local needs, especially those aligned with Rotary's Areas of Focus.
 - b. guide young people to learn about other cultures, participate in International projects, and understand the global scope of Rotary, especially aligned with Rotary's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - c. develop youth leadership skills by promoting youth voice and empowering young people to become club and district leaders.
 - d. fulfill Rotary's commitment to youth service by engaging our members to provide safe, meaningful, and impactful opportunities for young people to learn and grow.

(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103)

Source: February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103

41.010.2. Membership in an Interact Club

1. An Interact club is a Rotary club sponsored organization of young people, ages 12 to 18, whose purpose is to provide opportunity for them to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding and leadership development skills.
2. Admission to membership of an Interact club is contingent on the prior approval by a parent/guardian and such permission can be revoked at any time.
3. On 30 June of the Rotary year in which a member becomes 18 years old or upon graduation, whichever is later, his or her Interact membership will end, without contradicting regulations and policies established by the school authorities for school-connected clubs.
4. Interact clubs are encouraged to adopt a code of conduct for members, consistent with the Code of Conduct for Rotary members and in accordance with Rotary's youth protection policies, which include grounds for termination to be included in their club bylaws.

(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103)

Source: May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285;

Amended by January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 153; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 182; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103

41.010.3. Sponsorship

1. An Interact club is organized, sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club and is established following the endorsement of the governor and upon certification and recognition by Rotary International; and its continued existence depends upon the continued sponsorship of at least one sponsor Rotary club and continued recognition by Rotary International.
 - a. An Interact club may be organized and sponsored jointly by a Rotary club and another Rotary club or a Rotaract club as long as the total number of co-sponsors does not exceed three clubs; and
 - b. Sponsoring Rotary and Rotaract clubs must be within the boundaries of the district in which the Interact club is located.

Interact clubs may be sponsored jointly by more than three clubs with the governor's approval if, in the governor's considered judgment, the best interests of the district, the Rotary clubs, Rotaract clubs, and the Interact club concerned would be effectively served.

A joint Interact committee should be created with representation from each of the sponsor clubs.

2. Sponsor clubs are responsible for organizing the Interact club and for providing it with guidance and counsel thereafter and have complete control and supervision over all activities, policies, and programs of the Interact club.

(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103)

Source: May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285; January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 102; January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171;
Amended by January 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140; January 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 15; February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103

41.010.4. Interact Club Base

1. An Interact club may be community or school-based.
2. Where the Interact club is school-connected, control and supervision by the sponsor clubs shall be exercised in full cooperation with the school authorities, with the understanding that such clubs are subject to the same regulations and policies established by the school authorities for all student organizations and extracurricular activities of the school.
3. As a matter of principle, Interact clubs are not authorized to assume membership in or merge with other organizations regardless of the purpose of such organizations.

(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103)

Source: May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285; May 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 251; January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176;
Amended by February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103

41.010.5. Interact Club Adviser

1. Rotary clubs shall appoint an Interact club advisor to supervise, guide, and support the Interact club.
2. The Interact club advisor may be a member of the sponsor Rotary or Rotaract club, an adult non-member vetted by the sponsor club(s), or in the case of school-based Interact clubs, a member of the faculty or administration of the school.
3. An Interact club may have more than one Interact club advisor, however only one Interact club advisor may be reported to Rotary International and must be reported on an annual basis in order to for the Interact club to maintain an active status.
4. All Interact club advisors should be screened, vetted, and trained to uphold Rotary's youth protection policies.

(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103)

Source: February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103

41.010.6. Standard Interact Club Constitution and Recommended Interact Club Bylaws

1. There shall be a “Standard Interact Club Constitution” prescribed by Rotary International and subject to amendment only by the Board of Directors of Rotary International. As a prerequisite of its organization and certification, each Interact club shall adopt the “Standard Interact Club Constitution” and shall automatically adopt all amendments thereto subsequently made by the Board of Directors of Rotary International.
2. Each Interact club shall adopt by-laws not inconsistent with the “Standard Interact Club Constitution” and with policy established by Rotary International. Such by-laws shall be subject to the approval of the sponsor club(s).
3. Each member of an Interact club, by his or her acceptance of membership, agrees to accept and to adhere to the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of the Interact club.

(April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127)

Source: May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285
Amended by April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127

41.010.7. Interact Club Suspension and Termination

1. An Interact club may be terminated (a) by Rotary International, with or without the consent, approval or concurrence of the sponsor club(s), for failure to function in accordance with its constitution or for other cause, (b) by its sponsor club(s), or (c) by the Interact club itself upon its own determination.
2. Upon termination of an Interact club, all rights and privileges relating to the name and logo shall be relinquished by the club and by its members individually and collectively.

(April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127)

Source: May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285
Amended by April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127

41.010.8. Interact Marks

An Interact club member shall be entitled to use and display the Interact name and logo in an appropriate and dignified manner during the period of his or her membership in an Interact club and he or she shall relinquish such entitlement upon termination of his or her membership in his or her Interact club or upon the termination of the Interact club in conformity with the Rotary Code of Policies Article 34.060.4. *(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103)*

Source: May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285
Amended by February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103

41.010.9. Interact Club Finances

1. Individual Interactors may pay annual membership fees to their club to cover the cost of club administration, as provided for in their club bylaws.

2. Any fees, dues or assessments on the membership of any Interact club shall be nominal and shall be only for the purpose of covering the cost of administering the club.
3. Funds for activities and projects undertaken by Interact clubs shall be raised by such clubs apart from membership fees, dues or assessments and shall be placed into a separate account.
4. Costs involved in arranging any meetings of Interact clubs or groups of Interact clubs should be kept as low as possible consistent with effective meetings and a meaningful program.
5. It is the responsibility of the Interact club to raise the funds necessary to carry out the program of the club; however, sponsor clubs may provide financial support when mutually agreed upon.
6. Interact clubs may occasionally request support for club activities, service projects, or fundraisers, but should not make repeated solicitations for financial assistance from Rotary clubs, Rotaract clubs, or from other Interact clubs.
7. Sponsor clubs should establish financial guidelines for Interact clubs to ensure that all funds are managed in a responsible and transparent manner, including all monies collected to support service projects, consistent with laws and banking regulations in the country. This should include providing oversight for an adult signatory on all accounts, and plans for disbursement of funds should the Interact club disband or be terminated.
8. No part of the expenses of meetings of Interact clubs shall be paid by Rotary International.

(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103)

Source: May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285;

Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67; February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103

41.010.10. Interact Club Activities

1. All Interact club activities, projects, and programs shall at all times be conducted in harmony with the policies of Rotary International; continued sponsorship of an Interact club by a Rotary club and recognition of it by RI are contingent thereon.
2. All online activities, such as the club website and social media pages, and virtual meetings shall be operated in accordance with applicable law and regulations; sponsor clubs shall obtain written consent of Interactors' parents or legal guardians in advance of Interact participation as necessary.

(April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127)

Source: May 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 255;

Amended by January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127

41.010.11. Interact District Meetings and Activities

1. District Governor authority: The governor is responsible for all Interact events within the district, and the district Interact committee shall report to the governor.
2. District Interact Committee: District Governors are encouraged to appoint a district Interact committee as noted in Rotary Code of Policies section 17.030.3.
3. District Interact Representative
 - a. A district with two or more Interact clubs may elect a district Interact representative from among its membership. The method of election shall be determined by the district Interact committee and district governor in advance of elections.
 - b. All election disputes shall be resolved locally by the district governor based on district policy in consultation with the district Interact chair. RI will not intervene.
 - c. The district Interact representative will be guided and counseled by the district governor and the district Interact committee, or other appropriate district committee, shall give counsel to and provide encouragement and inspiration to the Interact clubs of the district, particularly with respect to broadening and deepening the program of Interact within the district, and shall help focus their attention on the potential and achievements of the program in support of international understanding.
4. District Interact Meetings and Activities
 - a. District Interact conferences may be held, under the guidance of the district Interact committee, with one or more members of this committee present. The district Interact representative shall assist the district committee in arranging these meetings and, where possible, shall preside at such meetings.
 - b. The purpose of a district Interact conference is to provide learning, encouragement, enlightenment, and inspiration to the Interact clubs with respect to school and Community Service and to focus attention on the worldwide potential and achievements of Interact on behalf of international understanding.
 - c. No meeting of members of Interact clubs beyond the club level shall have any legislative authority nor shall be so organized or conducted as to give the appearance of having such authority. Nevertheless, such a meeting may include the opportunity for expression of ideas which might be of value as advisory observations to those who are involved at the district or other levels with the administration of Interact.
 - d. The chair of the district Interact committee and the district Interact representative should facilitate a leadership learning seminar for all incoming Interact club officers and committee chairs.
5. District Interact Finances
 - a. All district Interact activities shall be financed by the Interact clubs in the district.

- b. No part of the expenses of district Interact representatives, district Interact conferences, meetings of Interact clubs, or groups of Interact clubs shall be paid by Rotary International.
- c. The district should make provisions to fund the administrative activities of the district Interact committee.

(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)

Source: May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285;

Amended by May 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136; May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285; May 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254; January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172; January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 153; January 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140; February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103; April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

41.010.12. Multidistrict Interact Meetings

1. Meetings of Interact club members from more than one district are to be held under the guidance of the host governor and the district Interact committee. Such meetings are subject to RI youth protection policies and the advance approval of the governors of the districts involved. Invitations to governors to hold multidistrict Interact meetings must be accompanied by
 - a. information including the date, location, purpose, program and participants of the proposed meeting
 - b. a copy of the anticipated meeting budget with assurance that the sponsors are in a position to and will assume complete responsibility for contractual and financial obligations inherent in the meeting
 - c. plans for adult supervision of Interactors and details about appropriate sleeping accommodations
 - d. assurance that the planning and implementation of the proposed meeting will be carried out under the direct supervision of Rotarians
2. The host club or district must maintain liability insurance for multidistrict Interact meetings with coverage and limits appropriate for the geographic location. Evidence of such coverage must be provided to RI or the governor of any participating district upon request.

(April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127)

Source: January 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106;

Amended by January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155; April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127

41.010.13. Travel Insurance for Interactors

Clubs and districts inviting members of Interact clubs to participate in the programs or activities of such clubs or districts outside of their local community should, when Interactors are traveling 150 miles away from home residence or out of the home country, require the parents or legal guardians of each Interactor to provide travel insurance for the Interactor,

which includes such coverages as medical (when traveling outside home country), emergency medical evacuation, repatriation of remains, and legal liability, in amounts satisfactory to the club or district organizing the event, with coverage from the time of the Interactors departure from home until the return home. *(April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127)*

Source: July 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58;

Amended by January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155; April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127

41.010.14. RI Secretariat Service to Interact Clubs

1. The general secretary certifies organization of new Interact clubs, produces program publications, distributes annual communications to all Interact clubs, sponsor clubs, and district Interact committee chairs, promotes World Interact Week, and supports youth protection initiatives.
2. The general secretary processes certification of Interact clubs. The approval of the district governor is required as a prerequisite to certification.
3. As a matter of policy, the Board does not recognize the right of any individual or organization except RI to circularize Interact clubs for any commercial or other purpose.

(April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157)

Source: January 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140;

Amended by June 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

Cross-References

- 2.120. *Youth Protection*
8.020. *Special Observances*
34.060.4. *Interact and Rotaract Marks*

41.020. Rotary Community Corps (RCC)

Rotary Community Corps is a program of Rotary International, formerly known as the Rotary Village Corps, adopted by the Board in 1986.

The Rotary Community Corps (RCC) “Statement of Policy” is as follows:

1. The Rotary Community Corps program was developed and created by and is an activity of Rotary International, and the authority for the establishment and enforcement of the organizational requirements and standards of procedure, and for the protection and preservation of the Rotary Community Corps name is retained by Rotary International.
2. The purpose of the Rotary Community Corps Program is to empower communities to address their needs by developing and participating in sustainable service initiatives.
3. The goals of the Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Program are:
 - a. To develop partnerships between Rotarians and non-Rotarians in a joint effort to enhance their community

- b. To support community members who proactively address community needs, recognizing their unique ability to identify the most pressing concerns and suitable methods of implementation
 - c. To promote sustainable solutions to community needs by engaging a broader segment of the community in developing and implementing focused service projects
4. Rotary Community Corps Activities and Projects
- a. Rotary Community Corps are strongly encouraged to engage in activities and projects that are chosen based on thorough assessment of the community's specific needs, ensuring that they are carried out in accordance with all applicable local and national rules and regulations.
 - b. Each corps shall be responsible for planning, organizing, financing and conducting its own activities. It shall not solicit financial assistance from individuals, businesses, or organizations in the community without prior approval from the sponsoring Rotary club(s).
5. Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Sponsorship
- a. The sponsorship of each Rotary Community Corps shall be one or more local Rotary clubs which, through a committee of Rotarians, shall provide regular counsel on activities, programs, and policies of the corps.
 - b. Rotary Community Corps shall not be sponsored by Rotary clubs outside the boundaries of the district in which they are located.
6. Responsibilities of a sponsor Rotary club
- a. Sponsor Rotary club shall provide ongoing guidance to the Rotary Community Corps and share service-related resources and tools with the corps. The primary sponsor club is responsible for ensuring that activities of the RCC are aligned with RI's policies and procedures. Sponsor clubs are encouraged to invite RCC members to their meetings and events.
 - b. Sponsor Rotary club shall appoint at least one RCC advisor or a RCC committee whose responsibility is to participate in the meetings and activities of the RCC, advise on administrative matters, provide mentorship to the RCC leadership and members, and keep the sponsor club informed about the RCC's activities. The RCC advisor/committee should notify the district community service chair and RI about the accomplishments of the RCC for inclusion in the district and RI publications/communications.
 - c. Sponsor club or the current RCC representative shall provide RI with the contact information of the incoming RCC representative each year no later than 30 June. Failure to report the RCC representative to RI may result in the termination of the RCC.
7. Rotary Community Corps name and visual identity

- a. The name of a Rotary Community Corps shall include the wording “Rotary Community Corps” to show the corps’ affiliation with Rotary. The name should be one that helps identify its locality, sponsor Rotary club, or type of projects the corps is formed to carry out. The general secretary shall determine if a name is appropriate.
- b. The name and visual identity of the Rotary Community Corps shall be preserved for the exclusive use and benefit of the corps and its members. A corps and its members are entitled to display the name and visual identity in a dignified and appropriate manner. Each member shall give up such entitlement upon termination of membership or termination of the corps.

8. Membership in Rotary Community Corps (RCC)

- a. The membership of each corps shall consist of non-Rotarian adults with the desire and capacity to contribute toward enhancement of the community, with consideration given to those with leadership potential. Membership shall be open to any person living, working, or studying in or near the Corps’ community.
- b. All members of the Rotary Community Corps, by their acceptance of membership and continuation thereof, accept the policies and guidelines of the program as explained herein, and agree to comply with and be bound by these policies.
- c. Selection of members of each corps shall be determined by the corps in consultation with the sponsoring Rotary club(s).
- d. Membership may be terminated upon failure to continue to meet qualifications of membership, or for cause, as determined by the corps by vote of no less than two-thirds of all members in good standing.
- e. Any fees, dues or assessments to be paid by the membership of the corps shall be nominal and for the sole purpose of meeting administrative costs. Corps should enlist a qualified person to conduct an audit of all financial transactions once a year, the results of which should be reported to members of the corps and to the sponsoring Rotary club(s).

9. Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Leadership Group

- a. Rotary Community Corps shall establish a leadership group, in consultation with the sponsoring Rotary club(s), comprised of members in good standing and elected by a simple majority of the corps. The term of office shall be one year unless otherwise determined by the corps and sponsoring club(s).
- b. The leadership group shall elect from amongst themselves one individual to represent the corps (RCC representative) in any business with the sponsoring Rotary club(s) or the public. This representative may appoint such committees as deemed necessary to carry out tasks, which shall exist until completion of duties, discharge by the representative, or upon the end of the representative’s term. Committees for administration, vocational service, community service, and finance are recommended for each corps.

10. District community service chairs are highly encouraged to appoint a district Rotary Community Corps subcommittee.

The role and responsibilities of this subcommittee are to:

- a. Promote understanding of and participation in the RCC program through regular contact with clubs in the district and through district meetings
- b. Assist clubs establishing RCCs
- c. Encourage clubs to seek resources for their RCC projects on Rotary Ideas
- d. Identify successful RCC projects for promotion via the district website, governor's monthly newsletter, and Rotary Showcase
- e. Maintain records of RCC status and activities in the district, and report periodically to the governor and Secretariat

11. A Rotary Community Corps may be terminated:

- a. By Rotary International, with or without the consent, approval or concurrence of the sponsor Rotary club, for:
 - i. failure to function in accordance with RI's policies
 - ii. failure to function in accordance with its constitution
 - iii. initiating, or maintaining, or retaining in its membership an individual who initiates or maintains litigation against Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, or the district, including their directors, trustees, officers, and employees, or
 - iv. for other cause
 - v. for other cause
- b. By its sponsor Rotary club(s) or
- c. By the corps itself upon its own determination

Sponsor club shall notify RI if a RCC is no longer active or does not comply with RI's policies. RI will terminate the RCC upon receiving confirmation from the club president. (October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30)

Source: January 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 180; October-November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-21; October-November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec., E-24; October-November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-25; October-November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-26; May 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 327; April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279; April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285; November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124;

Amended by June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 222; May 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30

41.020.1. RI Secretariat Service to Rotary Community Corps

The general secretary charters new Rotary Community Corps, develops program resources, and distributes annual communications to all sponsor Rotary clubs and district community service chairs. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60*)

Source: June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 222;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60

41.020.2. RI Certification of Rotary Community Corps

The general secretary processes certification of Rotary Community Corps. The RCC Organization Form requires the signatures of the RCC representative and the sponsoring Rotary club. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60*)

Source: June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 222;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60

41.030. Rotary Friendship Exchange

Rotary Friendship Exchange is a program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in 1988.

Note: The Board regularly reviews and, as necessary, amends the “Rotary Friendship Exchange Guidelines,” which are as follows:

Rotary Friendship Exchanges give participating Rotarians, their families, and their friends the opportunity to host and visit one another internationally. The goal of an exchange is for participants to experience cultural immersion and intercultural exposure, foster greater international understanding, or to allow those who are new to their career to enhance their vocational skills, while making new connections and friendships, and, when possible, building a foundation for collaborative service projects.

Exchange teams should identify the purpose of each trip, such as but not limited to, a vocationally-oriented exchange, culturally-oriented exchange, service-oriented exchanges, and establishing a twin club or service partner relationship.

Rotary Friendship Exchanges have the following characteristics:

- They are reciprocal
- They are funded entirely by the participants and their respective districts
- They are open to Rotarians, their family members, and non-Rotarians
- They have an identified purpose and goals

Vocational Exchanges for Young Professionals

Rotary Friendship Exchange may also be used to provide a unique educational opportunity for young business and professional people in the initial years of professional life. These exchanges are designed to develop professional and leadership skills among young people to

prepare them to address the needs of their communities and an increasingly global workplace. These vocational exchanges will follow an extensive and rigorous program of international travel and participatory activities involving:

Vocational Activities that provide opportunities to observe vocations as practiced in another country and participate in a reciprocal exchange of ideas in their respective fields, which ultimately will benefit all communities involved;

Cultural Experiences that allow participants to study another country, its people and institutions and to promote an appreciation of cultural diversity worldwide.

Fellowship Opportunities that encourage team members and hosts to meet, communicate and live with each other in a spirit of fellowship and goodwill, to consider each other's problems, aspirations and community concerns, and to foster lasting friendships and international understanding; and

Rotarian Involvement in providing young, formative professionals an experienced perspective of their vocation in another country and culture and participating in the process of sending, receiving and sharing educational experiences of study teams that will enhance the worldwide mission of Rotary.

Districts that engage in these exchanges should consider the following factors:

1. The district should cite a clear purpose and goal to be achieved by the exchange.
2. The district should develop a draft host itinerary.
3. The district should present a plan for accommodation of the incoming team members in Rotarian homes or in other alternative housing with an explanation thereof.
4. The district should present a well-rounded plan for preparation and orientation of outgoing team members to include language, culture, and other appropriate subjects, the duration of which must be not less than 12 hours.

District governors from participating districts appoint a district Friendship Exchange chair, who is responsible for helping interested participants coordinate exchanges through an email contact list of chairs from around the world. This list is posted on the RI website for Rotarians to use. The general secretary creates resources to promote the program and help districts find exchange partners. (January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)

Source: June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 357; October-November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 162; July 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48;

Amended by June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 182; May 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 144; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.040. Rotary Youth Exchange

Rotary Youth Exchange is a program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in 1974.

The Rotary Youth Exchange program provides young people with the opportunity to meet individuals from other countries, experience new cultures through life in another country. Host clubs, host families, and communities are enriched through engagement with students from different cultures. The program instills in young people the concept of international understanding and goodwill and helps develop intercultural competency which is essential to building and sustaining peace.

These policies assist clubs and districts to implement Youth Exchange activities effectively and responsibly, and pertain to both long-term and short-term exchanges, unless otherwise indicated.

Any other provisions consistent with these policies may be adopted by clubs or districts. Districts may reassign some responsibilities specified in these policies from one role to another. (October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; October 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.1. District Governors Authority

Each governor is responsible for the supervision and control of the Youth Exchange program within the district. The district Youth Exchange officers, or committees, are under the supervision of their respective governors and should report to them.

Governors are required to complete youth protection training as outlined in Rotary Code of Policies section 2.120. and are encouraged to use the period between their nomination and assuming office to learn as much as possible about the Youth Exchange program in the district and the qualifications and skills of those who administer it. (October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159;

Amended by May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355; March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.2. District Certification Program

The general secretary shall administer a district certification program. All district Youth Exchange programs shall comply with RI youth protection policies and other requirements set forth by the general secretary in order to be certified. In order to participate in the Youth Exchange program both host and sending districts must be certified by the general secretary.

The certification process requires all district Youth Exchange programs to provide RI with evidence that they have adopted the certification requirements in their Long-term and Short-term exchange programs (including any tours or camps). Failure by individual Rotarians, clubs, or districts to administer the program in accordance with these requirements may result in termination of a district's Youth Exchange certification.

The general secretary may grant waivers to districts that have implemented alternative policy and alternative procedures that meet the intent of RI policy in instances when RI policy or certification requirements are contrary to local law. If local circumstances are such that a district cannot legally meet any of the requirements, districts must provide the general secretary evidence of the specific circumstances that prohibit compliance and a written explanation of alternative procedures that maintain the intent of the policy or requirements. The general secretary will evaluate and determine whether the alternatives posited by districts meet the intent of the policy, and may bring matters to the Board should circumstances warrant.

Other certification policies include:

1. Certification of Districts for Sending Students Only

Districts that wish to send outbound students without serving as hosts for inbound students can apply for outbound-only certification.

2. Certification of Multi-country Districts

In multi-country districts where not all countries within the district wish to participate in the Youth Exchange program, the general secretary will only grant certification to participating countries that meet certification requirements.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108;

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 163; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 274; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; October 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.3. Legal Entity

Districts must establish a corporation or similar formal legal entity that includes the district Youth Exchange program. This requirement may be met by incorporating the district Youth Exchange program, a group of programs that includes Youth Exchange, or the district as a whole in accordance with *Rotary Code of Policies* 17.020.

Districts may also meet this requirement by affiliation with an incorporated multidistrict Youth Exchange program for the districts' activities that are conducted within the scope of the multidistrict program. *(January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152)*

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 163

Amended by January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152

41.040.4. Liability Insurance

Districts must secure liability insurance for the district Youth Exchange program with coverage and limits appropriate for their location. Clubs and districts are strongly encouraged to consult legal counsel regarding liability issues before undertaking Youth Exchange activities.

Youth Exchange programs in districts located entirely within the United States meet this requirement through participation in the U.S. Rotary Club and District General Liability Insurance Program.

The general secretary is authorized to grant an exception to the liability insurance requirement to districts where it has been demonstrated that such insurance is not available. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 163;

Amended by June 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 253; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.040.5. International Travel by Youth

No individual Rotarian, club, or district shall undertake an alternative program structure to send minors abroad that circumvents RI youth protection policies, the foregoing Youth Exchange policy, or the immigration and travel policies of any nation or government.

No individual Rotarian, club, or district shall assist or cooperate in sending a young person abroad on an international travel activity unless careful plans are made in advance covering every aspect of the proposed trip, including approval from the district youth protection officer and district Youth Exchange chair. In districts without a youth protection officer, the district governor and the district Youth Exchange committee chair must approve the arrangements.

No district should provide an identification card, letter of introduction, request for assistance or other credential or document intended to identify or introduce a young person to a district in another country, unless complete mutual agreement has been reached in advance with respect to the hospitality or assistance to be provided by the host district.

No district is obliged to provide hospitality or assistance to any young person from another country, despite any documented or claimed sponsorship of a Rotary club or district, unless the host district has specifically agreed in advance to provide such hospitality or assistance. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355;

Amended by January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; June 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 242; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.6. District Youth Exchange Finances

Funds for district Rotary Youth Exchange activities shall be held separately from other district funds, and the chair of the district Youth Exchange committee and a member of the district finance committee, or their proxies, shall be signatories. The district Youth Exchange committee shall prepare and submit a budget to the governor and the district finance committee for approval and inclusion in the Annual Statement and Report of District Finances. The district Youth Exchange committee and district treasurer shall prepare and distribute a financial report on Youth Exchange to the district governor on a semi-annual basis. *(January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91)*

Source: June 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 328, Appendix G;

Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325 November 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 118; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91

41.040.7. Reporting to Rotary International

All incidents, including but not limited to, accidents, death, early returns, crimes, and any allegations of abuse or harassment shall be reported to RI within 72 hours of learning of the incident. Failure to report incidents to RI within 72 hours may result in suspension of the district's Youth Exchange certification or other measures as determined by the general secretary for failure to comply. Upon learning that an individual, club, or district knowingly has failed to timely report, the RI Board may terminate the club.

Districts shall provide to RI student data according to certification requirements determined by the general secretary. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 163; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.8. Types of Exchanges

The Youth Exchange program includes two distinct program types:

Long-term Exchange Program

Long-term exchanges should be for one academic year but may be extended to include part or all of the holiday periods immediately preceding and immediately following the academic year. Students are required to attend school in the host country. Students are prohibited from attending school at an institution where they are required to live on the premises, or where the primary room and board is provided by the school.

Students should have more than one host family; placement with three successive host families is preferable. In the event that circumstances prevent multiple host family placements, both the sponsor and host district must agree and alert the student's parent or legal guardian in advance. At least one back-up host family must be available.

Parents of outbound students shall not be required to host inbound students. However, parents of outbound students may volunteer to host or may be asked to assist in finding suitable host families.

Host clubs must select individual Rotarian counselors from their clubs with whom each student is to be in regular contact and to serve as a liaison between the student and the club, the student's parents or legal guardians, host family and community at large. Sending clubs and/or districts select an individual Rotarian to serve as a resource to an outbound student. The club counselor must not be in a position of authority over the student's exchange, such as a member of the student's host family, district or club Youth Exchange officer, school principal, etc. and must be trained in responding to any problems or concerns which may arise during the exchange, including the prevention of physical, sexual and psychological abuse.

The host club should provide for all educational expenses, arrange an appropriate academic program, and must provide a program of orientation and continued contacts to familiarize the student with the host community.

The host club or district should provide a monthly allowance for the student in an amount determined by the parties concerned. The monthly allowance shall be sufficient to cover meals eaten at school or elsewhere.

Short-term Exchange Program

Short-term exchanges vary from several days to several weeks or months. They often take place when school is not in session and may not include an academic program. Short-term exchanges generally involve a homestay experience with a family in the host country, but may also be organized as international youth camps or tours.

Host clubs must select individual Rotarian counselors from their clubs with whom each student is to be in regular contact and to serve as a liaison between the student and the club, the student's parents or legal guardians, host family and community at large. Sending clubs and/or districts select an individual Rotarian to serve as a resource to an outbound student. The club counselor must not be in a position of authority over the student's exchange, such as a member of the student's host family, district or club Youth Exchange officer, school principal, etc. and must be trained in responding to any problems or concerns which may arise during the exchange, including the prevention of physical, sexual and psychological abuse. (*April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235; March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; November 2004 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 108; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; June 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 241; October 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127

41.040.9. Eligibility

Participation in Youth Exchange is open to students aged 15 to 19 years at the beginning of the exchange unless the laws and regulations of a specific country deem otherwise. Students 18 years or older may participate by mutual agreement by the participating clubs and districts.

Youth Exchange welcomes any young people who meet the requirements of the program and who are recommended and sponsored by a club, or a district. They should be above average in their schoolwork.

People with disabilities may participate where and when this is possible and agreed upon between the sending and host clubs or districts. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; October 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.10. Student Application

Candidates must submit a written application and must undergo a selection process including personal interviews with the applicant and the applicant's parents or legal guardians at the club level and at the district level.

Clubs and districts are encouraged to use standard Youth Exchange applications which are maintained and updated by networks of district and multidistrict Youth Exchange officers. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; November 2004 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 108; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.040.11. Selection and Placement

The sending district is responsible for ensuring that each student is accepted and hosted by a club in a partner district. Districts are urged to utilize written agreements with their exchange partners to delineate responsibilities to ensure that all expectations of the exchange relationship are met, such as certification of exchange partners, logistics, and student selection and orientation.

All individuals involved in the exchange, including students and their parents or legal guardians, host family members and Rotarian counselors, must agree in writing to all the requirements of the program as determined by the sending and host clubs or districts.

Student travel itineraries must be agreed upon by the students' parents or legal guardians and the host club or district. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; November 2004 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 108; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; October 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.040.12. Travel Insurance for Rotary Youth Exchange Students

Partner districts shall determine where there may be gaps in coverage, in any national insurance plans or travel insurance coverage, and identify and purchase supplemental coverage to meet the minimums.

Evidence of student travel insurance coverage shall be submitted to, received by, and accepted by the host district prior to the student's departure from home. As the host Rotary district must be in a position to arrange immediate and emergency medical attention when it is needed, the host district must approve that the insurance coverage carried by the student is with a responsible insurance company and will ensure that any service providers receive complete and prompt payment. The parent or legal guardian of the Youth Exchange student is responsible for the payment of all medical and accident costs.

The parent or legal guardian of each student shall obtain travel insurance, including, but not limited to, medical and dental coverage for accidental injury and illness, repatriation of remains, emergency evacuation, 24-hour emergency assistance services, and personal legal

liability. Such amounts shall not be less than the following minimum limits and benefits per student:

1. Provide coverage on a 24-hour basis from the time the student leaves their home until they return home inclusive of any personal travel before and/or after the agreed exchange period
2. Valid in the host country, any transit countries and countries included on any tours with the exception of student's home country
3. 24-hour emergency assistance services
4. Minimum US\$1,000,000 for expenses related to injury or illness such as hospital, doctors/physicians, dentist, ambulance or other usual and customary medical services
5. Minimum US\$50,000 for necessary emergency transport or evacuation of student in the event of severe illness or bodily injury
6. Minimum US\$50,000 for repatriation of student's remains or cremation expenses in the event of the death of the student
7. Minimum US\$50,000 for necessary emergency transport or evacuation of student in the event of a non-medical emergency, including due to a political crisis or a natural disaster
8. Minimum US\$500,000 for personal legal liability for liability arising from the student's actions or omissions that cause bodily injury to a third party or damage to a third party's property.

Parents or legal guardians may also consider obtaining the following additional travel insurance coverage options:

1. Accidental death, dismemberment, or disability
2. Emergency Visitation. Provides reimbursement for emergency visitation expenses for the cost of reasonable transport and accommodation incurred by any one close relative or friend to travel to, travel with, remain with, or escort the student as a result of serious injury, illness, or death of the student
3. Trip Cancellation or Curtailment. Provides reimbursement for trip cancellation or curtailment expenses provides coverage for travel expenses incurred because of an unexpected cancellation due to injury or illness
4. Property Coverage. Provides reimbursement for personal property losses, including student's loss of money or for theft or total loss of property such as baggage
5. Kidnap & Extortion coverage. Provides access to trained specialists that respond to incidents of kidnap or threats to kill, injure, or kidnap a student where ransom is demanded and pays for costs of ransom.

Where it is a statutory or legal requirement for travel insurance to be purchased in the host country, such insurance shall be in accordance with these limits and benefits. In all other cases dual insurance should be avoided unless agreed to by all parties.

Clubs and districts are strongly encouraged to consult insurance counsel for advice on obtaining liability insurance and other coverage and should be fully informed about government's policies and regulations regarding foreign students, including insurance coverage requirements.

Participation in extreme sports, such as hang gliding, rock climbing, and bungee jumping, is discouraged. If students are allowed to participate in extreme sports, these activities should be undertaken with the host districts and parent or legal guardian's written permission, and additional adequate insurance should be obtained. *(January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 260; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112

41.040.13. Travel by Youth Exchange Students

Youth Exchange students may undertake approved travel with host parents or for Rotary club or district events. The host district shall obtain written permission from the parents or guardians of students for travel outside their local community as defined by the host district in advance.

For all other travel, host districts must ensure that parents or legal guardians are provided with specific details about the program, location, travel itineraries, sleeping accommodations, and contact information. Tours and travel operated by or on behalf of host districts are subject to the Rotary Code of Policies section 2.120.3. *(June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 210)*

Source: June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 210

41.040.14. Preparation

The parents or legal guardians of the student are responsible for providing appropriate clothing and round-trip transportation to and from the host district.

It is not customary for host districts to charge inbound student fees. However, all in-country and optional costs, such as language courses, tours, and insurance, must be outlined and agreed to in advance of the exchange. Sending districts shall provide parents or legal guardians of outbound students with itemized invoices outlining how funds paid to participate in Youth Exchange are used. Copies of these invoices should also be provided to the sending Rotary club.

The host and sending club or districts must provide students with a list of individuals to contact in the case of a problem or emergency. These lists must include the name and contact information for the student's Rotarian counselor, club presidents, district chairs, governors, and two non-Rotarian resource persons (one male and one female). This list must also include local resources for medical, dental and mental health care and law enforcement. Where

available, this list should also include local resources, suicide prevention hotlines, rape crisis hotlines, and local child protection agencies. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; November 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; July 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 16; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.15. Orientation

The sending club or district must organize a mandatory orientation for outbound students and their parents or legal guardians prior to departure. This orientation must inform the participants about the rules, procedures and expectations associated with the Youth Exchange program, provide abuse prevention and awareness training for both students and parents or legal guardians, and should include a briefing about the local Rotary club and its activities.

The host club or district must organize a mandatory orientation for inbound students. This must include guidance for students should they encounter any aspects of neglect, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, and contact information for local resources and their appointed counselors. Orientation must include information on local laws and customs as these can differ from one country to another greatly. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; November 2004 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 108; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.040.16. Student Responsibilities

Students should represent themselves, their home country, and Rotary in ways that reflect Rotary's values, commitment to *Service Above Self*, and as peacebuilders in their host community. They should respect each other and act responsibly, befitting their role as a representative of the program and of Rotary in the world.

Students should not under any circumstances be permitted to operate or drive a motorized vehicle of any kind during the exchange, nor to own a motorized vehicle in the host country.

Students should not travel outside the immediate area of the host club community without the consent of the host club and district, the students' parents or legal guardians.

Students should accept the supervision and authority of the host family and the host club or district during the exchange. (*October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; November 2004 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 108; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.17. Student Debriefing

Due to the likely effects of reverse culture shock, following their return, students and their parents or legal guardians should be encouraged to attend a debriefing meeting for the

purpose of assisting them to transition to their home, school, and community environment. *(January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152

41.040.18. Volunteer Selection and Screening

Careful selection of all individuals involved in Youth Exchange should be of paramount concern and be done with the utmost care and consideration.

All adults (Rotarian and non-Rotarians) involved in the program, including but not limited to committee members, host family members, club counselors, and others who have significant or unsupervised contact with youth, must be interviewed to determine suitability to work with youth, complete and sign a youth volunteer form, and agree to undergo criminal background checks, including law enforcement public record checks and a reference check.

The host club or district must conscientiously screen and select host families on the basis of a written application, criminal background checks for all adults in the home, including law enforcement public record checks and reference checks, personal interview, and home visits which must be both announced and unannounced.

Adult volunteers (both Rotarian and non-Rotarian) who have not complied with program requirements must be permanently removed by the district from involvement with youth in a Rotary context. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by November 2004 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 108; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 163; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.19. Volunteer Training

All adults (Rotarian and non-Rotarians) involved in the program, including but not limited to committee members, host families, club counselors, and others, must receive training that includes information on program administration, rules, and abuse and harassment awareness and prevention. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 163;

Amended by January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.040.20. Host Family Rules and Expectations

The host family should provide room and board for the student and exercise appropriate supervisory and parental responsibility to ensure the student's well-being. *(January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152

41.040.21. Early Returns

Students who do not comply with program requirements shall be sent home. The host district shall have authority over these decisions. The sponsor district, club, host family and the student's parents must be fully informed of travel arrangements prior to the student leaving their host country.

The student should be returned home at the earliest practical time and route. In the event of an impasse, districts may appoint an independent Rotarian to serve as a mediator. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.040.22. Youth Exchange Alumni

Districts and clubs are encouraged to establish Youth Exchange alumni groups, such as Rotex, and to obtain recognition as official Rotary Alumni Associations. *(June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149)*

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97;

Amended by September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28; June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149

41.040.23. Multidistrict Youth Exchange Programs

There may be instances where two or more districts wish to jointly undertake Youth Exchange. The Board has no objection to such cooperative effort, provided any activity or project is not undertaken unless two-thirds of the clubs in each such district have first approved participation. Furthermore, the governors of the respective districts shall secure in advance specific authorization of the general secretary acting on behalf of the Board.

Each governor has the responsibility for the supervision and control of the Youth Exchange Program within the district. Multidistrict activities shall be administered by a committee composed of current district Youth Exchange chairs and other officers appointed by the respective governors of participating districts. Such a multidistrict committee is responsible for reporting in writing not less often than annually on its work and finances to all governors in the participating districts. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355;

Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.040.24. Regional Youth Exchange Groups

The Board has no objection to the formation of regional groups for the purpose of disseminating information, facilitating communication, organizing learning events or conferences, or sharing best practices between certified districts and multidistricts provided that:

1. there is no objection by the governors of each of the districts that may be the intended participants based on the name or geographic location of such a group;

2. the group has no decision-making or legislative powers, except for decisions concerning the activities of the group itself;
3. the group does not directly undertake any exchange activity and clearly communicates that only certified districts or multidistricts may plan or arrange exchange activities;
4. funds needed to implement the organization's activities cannot be made enforceable.

(April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119)

Source: October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

Amended by April 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

41.040.25. Service in Rotary Youth Exchange

The Rotary Youth Exchange experience should align with the Object of Rotary, to encourage and foster the ideal of service and instill a lifelong dedication to service in young people. Clubs and districts are encouraged to include service activities and curriculum that promotes development of ethical leadership, team-building, international understanding, goodwill, and peace. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.040.26. Paid Wages for Youth Exchange Students

Employment regulations in various countries make it impractical for clubs and districts to engage in any international exchange programs in which participants are paid wages. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275;

Amended by January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152

41.040.27. District Youth Exchange Committee Chair and Multidistrict Officer List

The general secretary shall publish and maintain a directory of all district Youth Exchange committee chairs, multidistrict contacts, and regional group contacts. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355;

Amended by June 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 217; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.050. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, also known as RYLA, is a program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in 1971.

RYLA programs are designed for children aged 14 and older and adults in discrete cohorts to address varying maturity levels and program needs. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.050.1. Purpose

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program develops qualities of leadership in young people through civic engagement and personal and professional development. RYLA program content and format can be customized to target limited age groups in order to address varying needs and interests within the community. RYLA programs are conducted at the club, district, or multidistrict level. *(November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69)*

Source: April 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 256; May-June 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 395;

Amended by November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 95; July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 37; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

41.050.2. District Governor Authority

The governor is responsible for all RYLA events within the district, and the district RYLA committee shall report to the governor. *(September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)*

Source: September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

41.050.3. RYLA Facilitators

Facilitators involved in RYLA shall receive training related to sexual harassment and abuse prevention and diversity, equity and inclusion. For RYLAs that engage minors, facilitators shall also receive training on Rotary International's youth protection policies and their district's youth protection policies. *(January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84)*

Source: January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84

41.050.4. Goals

The goals of a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program are as follows:

1. Develop youth leadership skills and recognize young people who are making a positive difference in their communities;
2. Instill in young people a life-long commitment to service and connect young people to the continuing engagement opportunities available through Rotary International
3. Fulfill Rotary's commitment to youth service by empowering young people through leadership development.

(January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84)

Source: May-June 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 395;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84

41.050.5. Participant Learning Outcomes

During RYLA participants should:

1. Learn the fundamentals of leadership, including communication skills, conflict management strategies, and the ability to address problems ethically and strategically

2. Expand their ability to enact change within themselves and as a member of a team
3. Know how to take meaningful action to address community and global issues
4. Understand Rotary's impact in local communities and the opportunities available to young people through Rotary.

(January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218;
Amended by January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84

41.050.6. Service in RYLA

Clubs and districts are encouraged to include service activities and curriculum that promotes development of ethical leadership, team-building, international understanding, goodwill, and peace. *(January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84)*

Source: January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87;
Amended by January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84

41.050.7. Tactics for Planning Engaging RYLAs

Clubs and districts involved in RYLA are encouraged to:

1. Work toward diversity, equity, and inclusion across all programming by:
 - a. including participants with leadership potential from economically and socially disadvantaged communities
 - b. including facilitators representing diverse demographics
2. Promote youth voice by allowing participants to play a leading role in shaping their own RYLA programming;
3. Develop programming for Rotaractors and young adults that emphasizes professional development and leadership development.
4. Create innovative programming that addresses community needs and fosters collaborative partnerships with local organizations
5. Evaluate impact of RYLA program by collecting data from participants and facilitators and utilize findings to shape future programming.

(January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84)

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 227; **Amended by** January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; January 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84

41.050.8. RYLA Seminars and Programs

RYLA seminars should be conducted in districts and zones to facilitate the exchange of information between Rotarians and Rotaractors involved in RYLA and to share information about successful RYLA programming among district RYLA chairs, district RYLA

committee members, and other Rotarians and Rotaractors interested in RYLA. In addition, governors and directors are encouraged to include RYLA in the programs of the district training assembly, the district conference, and Rotary institutes. (*November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69*)

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 227;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; November 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

Cross-References

2.120. *Youth Protection*

17.020. *Incorporation of Districts*

32.090.4. *Multidistrict Youth Exchange*

ARTICLE 42. GLOBAL NETWORKING GROUPS

- 42.010. Rotary Fellowships
- 42.020. Rotary Action Groups
- 42.030. Incorporation Guidelines for Global Networking Groups

42.010. Rotary Fellowships

42.010.1. Terms of Fellowships

A Rotary fellowship is a group of individuals that globally unites around a common interest, vocation, or recreational activity with the primary purpose to network, further friendship, and build community. Membership in a fellowship is open to any interested individual. Fellowships should be inclusive to participants from all backgrounds regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Fellowship activities must be conducted independently of RI, but must be in harmony with RI policy, including the use of the Rotary Marks. Fellowships may not be used to promote religious beliefs, political issues, or other organizations. Recognition of a fellowship by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. A fellowship may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. A fellowship is not an agency of RI. Fellowships must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Fellowships may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country.

Individual Rotary Fellowships are not covered by RI insurance and are encouraged to assess their own risk and secure coverage as appropriate. (*November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172;

Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; June 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100; November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

Cross-References

- 40.010.1. *Definition of Program Participants*
- 40.0501. *Definition of Rotary Alumni*

42.010.2. Criteria for Recognition

The general secretary recognizes Rotary Fellowships on behalf of the Board.

To be recognized as a fellowship, a group shall:

1. Have at least 25 members representing at least five countries.
2. Not duplicate the purposes of an existing fellowship, Rotary program, or Rotary Foundation program.

3. Not be utilized as a tactic to promote a service project or program.
4. Utilize a commonly understood name reflecting the fellowships' interest, vocation, or recreational activity.
5. Be led by a chair, who must be an active Rotarian, Rotaractor, or Peace Fellow.
6. Adopt Rotary Fellowships Standard Bylaws as approved by the Rotary International Board
7. Create a website or social media page that contains the group's proposed name, logo, and contact information. The web presence and all communications must clearly indicate the group is proposed or in formation.

(January 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 66; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205;

Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43; October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58. See also November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100; November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; January 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92

42.010.3. Maintaining Active Status

The general secretary will promote fellowships as member engagement and retention opportunities.

Fellowships maintaining the criteria for recognition and meeting the following criteria will be considered active and will receive promotional preference through Rotary media and at events such as the International Convention, subject to space availability:

1. Maintain a web presence (website, social media page) with current information and approved name, logo and use of Rotary Marks
2. Report their chair annually to Rotary International
3. Submit an annual report to the general secretary by 1 September
4. Respond to inquiries from its members, prospective members, and the general secretary
5. Resolve fellowship disputes in an amicable manner

(November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52)

Source: January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115;

Amended by November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

42.010.4. Governance

Rotary Fellowships must adhere to standard bylaws as approved by the RI Board. Rotary Fellowships shall be governed by a board of directors with at least three members representing at least two countries.

All election and governance disputes shall be resolved amicably by the fellowship. Guidance from an independent third party may be sought to help resolve disputes. RI will not intervene. *(January 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92)*

Source: November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

Amended by January 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92

42.010.5. Chapters

A Rotary Fellowship may form chapters to diversify involvement and increase its international reach. The chapters must use the Rotary Fellowships RI-approved name and visual identity with a chapter-specific identifier.

The Rotary Fellowship shall oversee its chapters and be responsible for their compliance with RI's policies. Rotary Fellowships may collect nominal dues from its chapters to offset administrative expenses incurred as a result supporting chapters. *(November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52)*

Source: November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

42.010.6. Termination of Recognition

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may terminate a fellowship, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to comply with RI policies.

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may terminate a Rotary Fellowship in cases where the group has decided to voluntarily disband. Disbanded and terminated fellowships shall donate any remaining funds to The Rotary Foundation. *(January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115)*

Source: November 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96;

Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78; January 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115

42.010.7. Statement in Publications

A prospective Fellowship must prominently identify itself as a “prospective” group.

Rotary Fellowships must prominently display the statement “This fellowship is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International” or similar language approved by the general secretary in newsletters, publications, brochures, and websites. Following is an approved example of how such language may be incorporated into a statement describing the fellowship.

“The Rotary Fellowship of Architects is dedicated to building a global community of professionals within the architecture field to exchange ideas, provide learning opportunities and build friendship. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International

policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.” (*November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381;

Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

42.010.8. Agreements with Other Parties

Any agreement between a fellowship and other parties must clearly state that the fellowship is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International, an Illinois corporation, and that Rotary International is not liable for the activities of the fellowship. Any such agreement must also clearly state that Rotary International is not a party to the agreement, and that Rotary International is not liable for the performance of, or any obligation under, the agreement.

A fellowship may not enter into cooperative relationships with other organizations on behalf of RI. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.010.9. Youth Protection

Rotary Fellowships must protect the safety and wellbeing of all youth participating in their activities and comply with Rotary International’s youth protection policies. A Rotary Fellowship may not grant membership or affiliation to a person who is known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment or who is prohibited from being a member of a Rotary club. (Upon obtaining information that a fellowship has knowingly failed to terminate the membership or affiliation of such an individual, the RI Board may terminate the Rotary Fellowship for failure to comply). (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*)

Source: May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 184; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

42.010.10. Fellowships at RI Conventions

RI will provide gratis booth and meeting space for active Rotary Fellowships in good standing, on a space available basis and when the budget permits, with the provisions that no sale of goods or exchange of funds may take place, including for fundraising purposes. Fundraising for TRF may be permitted contingent upon convention venue rules, local laws, and approval by the general secretary. (*April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 121*)

Source: May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244;

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29; November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 121

Cross-References

8.020. *Special Observances*

42.020. Rotary Action Groups

42.020.1. Purpose

A Rotary Action Group shall be an internationally organized group with subject-matter expertise and experience in a particular service area whose purpose is the advancement of the Object of Rotary by providing assistance and support to Rotary and Rotaract clubs, districts, and multidistricts in planning and implementing large-scale, community development and humanitarian service projects. *(April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88; May 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 143; January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100; April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

42.020.2. Relationship with Rotary International

Rotary Action Groups are a resource to clubs and districts in their specialty. Rotary Action Group activities must be in harmony with RI policy. Rotary Action Groups may not be used to promote religious beliefs, political issues, or other non-Rotary organizations, or for the sole purpose of advocacy. Recognition of a Rotary Action Group by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. A Rotary Action Group may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. A Rotary Action Group is not an agency of RI. Rotary Action Groups must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Rotary Action Groups may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country.

Individual Rotary Action Groups are not covered by RI insurance and are encouraged to assess their own risk and secure coverage as appropriate. *(April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75; January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

42.020.3. Governance and Membership

Rotary Action Groups must adhere to standard bylaws as approved by the Board. Rotary Action Groups shall be governed by a board of directors with at least five members. No less than 80 percent of the Rotary Action Group's board members must be active Rotarians, Rotaractors, or Peace Fellows. Up to 20 percent of the Rotary Action Group's board positions may be occupied by independent outside board member(s) who is not a Rotarian, Rotaractor, or a Peace Fellow.

Membership in the Rotary Action Group is open to any interested individual. Membership may also be offered to Rotaract clubs, Rotary clubs, and districts on an annual basis at the discretion of the Rotary Action Groups' board of directors. *(October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47)*

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75;

Amended by January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47

42.020.4. Obtaining Provisional Recognition as a Rotary Action Group

All prospective Rotary Action Groups must apply for provisional recognition by the Board.

To apply, the group must

1. Secure at least 50 prospective members representing at least five countries and three zones, who share a common interest in a specific worthwhile service activity that advances the Object of Rotary.
2. Submit an application, including a description of the founding members' expertise in the subject matter, the types of projects it intends to promote or conduct, and an action plan that outlines how the group plans to accomplish its service goals. At least 10 founding members must demonstrate technical or subject matter expertise in the proposed group's area of concentration.
3. Be organized in accordance with RI policy.
4. Complement the service activities of Rotarians, Rotaractors, clubs and districts and not duplicate with the purposes of an existing Rotary Action Group, RI program or Rotary Foundation program

Groups that are denied provisional recognition may not reapply for a period of two years from the date of such denial. (*April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75; January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

42.020.5. Requirements for Provisionally Recognized Rotary Action Groups

Within two years of the date of provisional recognition, a Rotary Action Group must demonstrate its viability by doing the following:

1. Provide evidence of support for at least three multi-club or district community development and humanitarian service projects
2. Help clubs and districts obtain partners (within or outside of Rotary) and other resources for their projects
3. Maintain a website with current information and resources
4. Meet all of the requirements and policies for Rotary Action Groups

Provisionally recognized Rotary Action Groups shall have all the rights and responsibilities of Rotary Action Groups. At the end of the two-year period, the Board may recognize or terminate the provisional Rotary Action Group. Groups that are denied recognition may not reapply for a period of two years from the date of denial. (*April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157*)

Source: January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113;

Amended by October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142; September 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 23; April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

42.020.6. Maintaining Status as a Rotary Action Group

To maintain its status as a Rotary Action Group, a group must function in accordance with its recognized purpose and in accordance with RI policy and

1. Serve as a resource to clubs and districts by providing them with technical advice on project planning and implementation, developing best practices, guides, in-person and/or virtual learning opportunities.
2. Annually demonstrate evidence for maintaining expertise in the group.
3. Regularly collaborate with clubs, districts, and multidistricts on international projects in their area of specialty and annually support at least three multi-club or district humanitarian service projects. Groups shall maintain a record of their involvement and project outcomes.
4. Demonstrate ability to connect clubs and districts with organizations in their area of specialty.
5. Consistently distribute print or electronic communications to members of the Rotary Action Group.
6. Maintain a website with current information and resources.
7. Hold an annual meeting, in person or online, through which members can interact.
8. Submit an annual report of activities and finances, as requested by the general secretary, with a copy to its members by 1 October.
9. Maintain an action plan and report progress towards objectives in the annual report.

Annual reports shall be reviewed by the general secretary and the RI Programs Committee to determine whether groups are maintaining their active status. Groups that do not meet the criteria to maintain status shall be terminated by the RI Board of Directors. (*April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142; April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

42.020.7. Rotary Action Group Communication Policies

1. Websites - Rotary Action Groups must maintain websites that promote their activities and inform their members. Groups in formation that have not yet received recognition from the Board may organize a website to seek potential members, as long as the website clearly states that the group is not a Rotary Action Group, and does not use the Rotary Marks. Groups in formation that are denied recognition must disable these websites upon notification of the Board's decision.

2. Contact with clubs and districts - Rotary Action Groups may contact district governors district governors-elect, district international service chairs, and district Rotaract representatives. Rotary Action Groups may contact Rotary and Rotaract clubs only when a district governor grants express permission. This permission must be renewed annually with the change in district leadership.
3. Conflicts of interest - It is not permissible for a member of a Rotary Action Group to circularize on matters affecting his or her individual business interests.
4. Statement in communications and publications - Rotary Action Groups' communications (electronic and print), publications, and websites must prominently display the statement "This Rotary Action Group is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International" or similar language approved by the general secretary. This language must also be prominently included in any communications to, or agreements with, outside parties.

Following is an approved example of how such language may be incorporated into a statement describing a Rotary Action Group.

"The Rotary Action Group for Urban Concerns is a group of Rotarians whose purpose is to mobilize Rotarians and provide global leadership to address issues such as crime, unemployment, substance abuse, and homelessness. This Rotary Action Group operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International." (April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75; January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 191; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

42.020.8. Promotion of Rotary Action Groups

Rotary Action Groups shall work through the existing structure of clubs, districts, and multidistricts to support their service projects. Rotary Action Groups may list club, district, and multidistrict projects on their websites seeking financial support and provide direction on how individuals and/or organizations may contribute to those entities directly.

District governors, district International Service chairs and club presidents are encouraged to facilitate collaboration opportunities between clubs and Rotary Action Groups on projects and activities pertaining to the groups' respective areas of specialty.

Governors-elect and club presidents-elect shall be trained in the purpose, operation, composition, and targeted expertise of Rotary Action Groups. This should include how to use Rotary Action Groups to assist clubs and districts in supporting RI strategic plan priorities. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88; January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

42.020.9. Independent Review of Financial Statements

Rotary Action Groups with annual gross receipts or expenditures of more than US\$25,000 or equivalent are required to provide an annual financial statement and report that has been independently reviewed by a qualified accountant or by an action group audit committee, as may be decided by the membership. This report is to be provided to the membership with a copy to the general secretary by 1 October in each year.

If an audit committee approach is selected, the committee must

1. Be composed of at least three members who are not current officers
2. Be composed of active Rotarians
3. Have at least one member who is a past governor or past club president
4. Have at least one member with accounting and audit experience
5. Be selected by the group at its annual meeting in accordance with the procedures established by the group.

(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

42.020.10. Rotary Action Group Chapters

A Rotary Action Group may form country or regional chapters to diversify involvement and increase its regional impact. The chapters must use the Rotary Action Group's RI-approved name and visual identity with a country or regional identifier.

The Rotary Action Group shall oversee its chapters and be responsible for their compliance with RI's policies. Rotary Action Group may collect dues from its chapters to offset administrative expenses incurred as a result supporting chapters. *(April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157)*

Source: April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

42.020.11. Services

Services include use of the Rotary Marks and listing in program publications and on the RI website. *(November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53

42.020.12. Rotary Action Groups at RI Conventions

RI will provide gratis booth and meeting space for active Rotary Action Groups in good standing, on a space available basis and when the budget permits, with the provisions that no sale of goods or exchange of funds may take place including for fundraising purposes. Fundraising for TRF may be permitted contingent upon convention venue rules, local laws, and approval by the general secretary. (*April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 121*)

Source: November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53

Amended by April 2023 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 121

42.020.13. Suspension and Termination of Recognition

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may suspend services provided to a Rotary Action Group, with or without the consent of the group's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. To be reinstated, the group must address the concerns communicated by the general secretary within six months of the date of suspension. The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may reinstate a suspended Rotary Action Group. In the case of non-compliance, the general secretary may recommend that the Board terminate the group.

Groups that are terminated may not reapply for a period of two years from the date of termination.

The general secretary may, acting on behalf of the Board, terminate a Rotary Action Group in cases where the group has decided to voluntarily disband.

Disbanded or terminated Rotary Action Groups shall donate any remaining funds to The Rotary Foundation. (*April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78; January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142

42.020.14. Rotary Action Group Dues and Fundraising

Rotary Action Groups shall disclose how dues are used in their governing documents, and on their membership application materials. Rotary Action Groups shall prepare and circulate a statement of income and expenses annually to their members.

Rotary Action Groups may have paid staff. Groups may pay staff salaries and other administrative costs through membership dues, through project administrative fees paid as part of a grant, or through donations designated for such expenses.

Rotary Action Groups may solicit funds, including on their websites, from individuals and/or organizations, provided that donations are for the purpose of supporting:

- a Rotary club, Rotaract club, district, or multidistrict project
- The Rotary Foundation

- a separate implementing organization working with Rotary or Rotaract clubs on a project (provided there is no conflict of interest between the Rotary Action Group, its officers and/or directors, and the entity receiving the funds)

Rotary Action Groups may hold donations for the groups listed above in an amount not to exceed US\$100,000. Rotary Action Groups seeking to hold funds in excess of US\$100,000 shall first obtain approval from the general secretary. (*November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88; January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142; November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53

42.020.15. Rotary Action Groups and Other Organizations

1. Grant-Seeking Policy - Rotary Action Groups approaching other organizations for funds in excess of US\$25,000 shall first provide a draft copy to the general secretary and obtain express approval prior to submitting any formal applications. This provision also applies to funds that will be disbursed to a third-party organization working with the group.
2. Cooperative Relationship Policy - Rotary Action Groups approaching other organizations with the intention of establishing formal, written cooperative relationships or other agreements shall first provide a draft copy to the general secretary and obtain express approval in advance of any formal action.

(*January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159; January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80

Cross-References

36.010.3. *Contact with Other Organizations*

42.020.16. Incorporation of Rotary Action Groups

The advisability of incorporation is a matter the members of a Rotary Action Group should determine in light of their activities. Applications for incorporation must be submitted to the general secretary for review prior to submission. The articles of incorporation, or equivalent corporate document, of a Rotary Action Group must include a statement to the effect that the group is not an activity or agency of RI and must be in accordance with RI policy. (January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302;

Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75; January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137

42.020.17. Rotary Action Group Advocacy Guidelines

Rotarians are advocates for ending polio and for improving lives through service in Rotary's areas of focus. Rotary Action Groups are organized with the purpose of supporting clubs and

districts in planning and implementing large-scale, community development and humanitarian service projects in a particular domain in which their members have expertise. As part of their work, it is understood that RAGs promote awareness of an issue and advocate for action to address the issue. When dealing with governments for which a particular issue is politically sensitive, RAGs are expected to avoid taking partisan positions and are encouraged to submit suggested calls to action to Rotary International for review.” (*April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157*)

Source: January 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 102;

Amended by April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

42.020.18. Youth Protection

Rotary Action Groups must protect the safety and wellbeing of all youth participating in their activities and comply with Rotary International’s youth protection policies. A Rotary Action Group may not grant membership or affiliation to a person who is known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment or who is prohibited from being a member of a Rotary or Rotaract club. (Upon obtaining information that a group has knowingly failed to terminate the membership or affiliation of such an individual, the RI Board may terminate the Rotary Action Group for failure to comply). (*November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53*)

Source: May 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 143;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53

Cross-References

2.120. *Youth Protection*

26.120. *Harassment-free Environment at Meetings, Events, or Activities*

Article 34. *Rotary Marks*

42.020.19. Diversity and Inclusion

Rotary Action Groups are strongly encouraged to be inclusive:

1. to participants from all backgrounds regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
2. when approached by other groups of Rotarians, Rotaractors and alumni working in the shared area of concentration by incorporating their expertise, creating leadership opportunities, and helping elevate their cause through subcommittees, campaigns, or signature programs.

(*April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157*)

Source: April 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

Cross-References

26.130. *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy Statement for Rotary International*

40.050.1. *Definition of Rotary Alumni*

Article 34. *Rotary Marks*

42.030. Incorporation Guidelines for Global Networking Groups

The following recommended minimum guidelines apply to all Global Networking Groups that choose to incorporate:

1. The name of the incorporated Global Networking Group shall be the same as the name approved by the RI Board
2. The corporation shall be a not-for-profit entity, and it shall pay no dividend and no part of its money, property or other assets shall be distributed to its members, directors, or officers
3. Where any provision of the corporate documents of the incorporated Global Networking Group is not in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI, the terms of the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI shall prevail at all times
4. All members of the Global Networking Group shall be members of the incorporated entity
5. The initial membership of the Global Networking Group shall be the members of the Global Networking Group as of the time of the incorporation. The addition or removal of a member from a Global Networking Group pursuant to the Global Networking Group's governing document shall immediately and automatically result in a corresponding change in the membership of the corporation
6. The board of directors and officers of the Global Networking Group corporation shall be limited to members of the Global Networking Group
7. The number and terms of the directors shall be as required by local law and as provided for by the incorporated Global Networking Group's corporate documents
8. The board of the Global Networking Group at the time of the incorporation shall be the board of the incorporated group. Incorporated Rotary Action Groups must have at least five board members. No less than 80 percent of the incorporated Rotary Action Group's board members must be active Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Peace Fellows. Up to 20 percent of the incorporated Rotary Action Group's board positions may be occupied by a board member who is not a Rotarian, Rotaractor, or a Peace Fellow. Incorporated Rotary Fellowships must have at least three board members, chaired by an active Rotarian, Rotaractor, or a Peace Fellow. The Global Networking Group may elect such other officers as required by local law and as provided for in its corporate documents
9. The chair shall report annually to the members on the status of the Global Networking Group incorporation
10. The Global Networking Group corporation is not an activity or agency of RI.
11. The Global Networking Group corporation shall immediately and automatically cease operations and begin dissolution upon directive of the RI Board or upon the approval of the members of the corporation. The chair shall provide the Board notice of a decision

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by the Global Networking Group to dissolve the corporation, and shall provide a final report upon the completion of the dissolution process.

(October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47)

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47

Cross-References

32.090.5. *General Secretary Authority to Incorporate Global Networking Groups*

ARTICLE 43. AWARDS

- 43.010. Club Excellence Award
- 43.020. Significant Service Award
- 43.030. Rotary Membership Development Award
- 43.040. Service Above Self Award
- 43.050. Avenues of Service Award
- 43.060. The Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award
- 43.070. Rotary Alumni Global Service Award
- 43.080. Alumni Association of the Year Award
- 43.090. Rotary Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity
- 43.100. Award Replacement Policy
- 43.110. New Award or Recognition Proposals

43.010. Club Excellence Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize Rotary clubs that pursue activities that support organizational priorities.

The criteria for the Club Excellence Award shall be based on the priorities and goals of the strategic plan, include relevant Rotary Foundation goals, and remain consistent for the duration of that strategic plan.

There will be a separate section for each president to personalize. Achievements should be written in such a way that clubs chartered during the achievement year are not unduly precluded from achieving the award.

A Club Excellence Award for districts may be offered to districts where a pre-determined number of clubs achieve the Club Excellence Award.

A modified version of the Club Excellence Award shall be made available for Interact Clubs and Rotaract Clubs. An electronic certificate will be sent to governors for local printing or electronic distribution to clubs.

(May 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171)

Source: May 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 215:

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; May 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171

43.020. Significant Service Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize Rotary and Rotaract clubs for impactful projects and to give district recognition to club activities that address a significant problem or need.

The current club president may forward to the current governor for consideration any project description undertaken during their year of service. Upon receipt, the governor may

determine that the achievement is worthy of recognition by certificate. (*April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139*)

Source: July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 22;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139

43.030. Rotary Membership Development Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize individual Rotarians, clubs, districts, regions, and zones for activities proven to increase membership.

Criteria

Membership achievement categories for recognition shall be informed by those presented in the Club Excellence Award. For each category, an achievement threshold of the top five clubs in districts, districts in zones, and zones worldwide shall be recognized.

Recognition Items

Recognition shall be based on the level of achievement and may include wearable items, display items, electronic badges for online posting, and recognition events during International Assembly and Convention. Publicity of award winners may appear on the RI website and in *Rotary* and other regional magazines where appropriate.

Recognition items for individuals shall be delivered to clubs for presentation during club meetings or events. Recognition items for clubs shall be delivered to district governors for presentation during official visits or district events. Recognition items for district and regional leaders shall be delivered to directors for presentation at district or zone events. (*January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 303; May 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115. See also March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266.

Affirmed by July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30

43.030.1. Membership Society for New Member Sponsors

The Membership Society for New Member Sponsors recognizes those dedicated members who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment in expanding Rotary's reach.

Eligibility

Any active or former Rotarian who has sponsored 25 or more members into Rotary may be recognized in the Membership Society for New Member Sponsors. Charter members of new clubs do not count towards a members' cumulative sponsor activity and no member may have more than two sponsors assigned to them.

Recognition Levels

Bronze Level: Sponsored 25-29 members

Silver Level: Sponsored 30-49 members

Gold Level: Sponsored 50-74 members

Platinum Level: Sponsored 75+ members
(*June 2021 Bd. Mtg., Dec. 190*)

Source: June 2021 Bd. Mtg., Dec. 190

43.040. Service Above Self Award

The purpose of this award is to honor up to 150 outstanding Rotary and Rotaract club members per year whose service activities deliver an impact to humanity. No more than one recipient will be selected from a given district each year and an individual may only receive the award once.

Eligible nominators

Only current district governors and RI directors may submit one candidate from their districts. RI's current special representatives to non-districted Rotary clubs may also nominate one Rotarian or Rotaractor per year from the group of non-districted clubs they serve.

Eligible nominees

Any active Rotarian or Rotaractor in good standing may be nominated except current, incoming or immediate past governors, RI Directors, RI Presidents, and Foundation Trustees.

It is not possible to nominate oneself for the award. In addition, nominees must not be the partner, lineal descendant (child or grandchild), a partner of a lineal descendant, or an ancestor (parent or grandparent) of the nominator.

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must be Rotarians or Rotaractors in good standing. They must have demonstrated exemplary continuing humanitarian service, in any form and at any level. There should be an emphasis on personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others through Rotary. The award will not be given solely in recognition of one's performance in an elected or appointed Rotary assignment. Personal financial contributions to Rotary, its Foundation, or any individual project are not relevant considerations for this award.

Selection of recipients

Up to five RI Membership Committee members shall review the nominations. Upon selection, RI shall return to the nominator or nominator's designee the Service Above Self pin and crystal award for presentation to the Rotarian or Rotaractor. (*June 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 184;

Amended by February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 217; June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 347; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 68; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 131; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 389; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 228; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 204; November 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 66; November 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; January 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109; April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139; June 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177

Cross-References

32.090.15 *GS Authority to Rescind Service Above Self Award*

43.050. Avenues of Service Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize the efforts of individual Rotarians or Rotaractors in each of Rotary's five Avenues of Service.

Eligible nominators and nominees

Current club presidents may nominate to the district for recognition in one or all of the areas of service any active Rotarian or Rotaractor in good standing except current club presidents; incoming, current, or immediate past governors; general secretaries, RI directors, RI presidents, Foundation Trustees, and RIBI regional board or honorary treasurers.

Sample achievement activities:

Club Service: Having exhibited significant support of club service by the activities and administration of their Rotary or Rotaract club and enhancing member satisfaction.

- Organizing club meetings and creating engaging programming
- Serving on committees, as committee chair, on club Boards, etc.
- Fostering communication among club members, and with the community through social or other media coverage of club activities
- Creating a proactive, creative, long-term strategy supporting membership development
- Joining and actively participating in the activities of a Rotary Fellowship

Community Service: Having exhibited significant support of community service by improving the quality of life for people in their communities and serving the public interest.

- Taking the lead on the planning and implementation of a sustainable local service project
- Fostering opportunities to secure a partnership with a corporate, governmental, or nongovernmental entity to work on a project together
- Personally involving oneself in the hands-on delivery of service to the community
- International Service: Having exhibited significant support of international service by improving the quality of life for people across the globe, and promoting peace and international and cultural understanding.
- Taking the lead on the planning and implementation of an international service project in one of Rotary's seven areas of focus
- Fostering opportunities to secure a partnership with a corporate, governmental, or nongovernmental entity to work on a service project together
- Participating in World Community Service, Friendship Exchange, Vocational Training Team, or Intercountry Committees
- Organizing the club's participation in a local or international project faire
- Participating in a Rotary Action Group's support of a service project

Vocational Service: Having exhibited significant support of vocational service by exemplifying integrity and high ethical standards in their vocation and in Rotary; using their vocational talents to serve the community.

- Mentoring a young person to help that person succeed in vocational pursuits
- Organizing a vocational service discussion or group workshop to inspire others to take action
- Teaching other club members about their vocation by participating in a classification talk
- Participating in a business networking event that introduces non-Rotarians to the principles of vocational service
- Implementing an activity to celebrate Vocational Service Month in January
- Participating in a Vocational Training Team

Youth Service: Having exhibited significant support of youth service by empowering youth and young professionals, and supporting leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

- Taking the lead on the planning and implementation of a service project that supports the development of young persons in the community
- Hosting an event for Rotary alumni, and highlighting Rotary's networking opportunities
- Participating in an Interact or Rotaract club service project
- Actively mentoring and coaching Interactors' and Rotaractors' personal, professional, and leadership development
- Hosting a youth exchange student
- Implementing a service project to recognize World Interact or Rotaract Week or Youth service month

Upon receipt, the governor may determine that the achievement is worthy of recognition by certificate. At such time as a Rotarian or Rotaractor has achieved recognition in all five avenues of service a governor may nominate that Rotarian or Rotaractor for recognition by RI. Upon receipt, RI shall return to the governor or club president the Avenues of Service pin for presentation to the Rotarian or Rotaractor. (*October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52;

Amended by June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 347; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 389; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 223; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; April 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 162; April 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139; October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30

43.060. The Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award

The Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award honors one Rotary member per year who has actively worked to advance women in Rotary.

Eligible nominators and nominees

Any active Rotary member in good standing may submit one candidate for consideration, each year.

Any active Rotary member in good standing who has demonstrated extraordinary success in the advancement of women in Rotary, regardless of gender or tenure of membership, may be nominated. Members cannot nominate themselves, and may only receive the award once.

Selection of recipients

Past Sylvia Whitlock Award recipients and up to five RI Membership Committee members shall review eligible nominations. No more than one recipient shall be selected each year. Upon selection, the recipient will be announced and invited to be publicly recognized as appropriate and practical. *(November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57)*

Source: November 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57

43.070. Rotary Alumni Global Service Award

The purpose of Rotary Alumni Global Service Award is to honor an outstanding Rotary Alumnus whose career and activities illustrate the impact of Rotary's programs on their service to humanity. For the award, Rotarians should consider individuals whose service activities and professional achievements are of an extraordinary nature. The ideal candidate's service and professional career would go beyond the local community to touch the lives of people at the international level.

The Rotary Alumni Global Service Award is given to a single individual. All Rotary alumni are eligible for the award. *(January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101)*

Source: October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65;

Amended by January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101

43.070.1. Selection Criteria

1. Candidates must have demonstrated the social benefits of Rotary's programs through extraordinary service activities and professional achievements.
2. Candidates must have achieved distinction in their profession or vocation.
3. Candidates must have performed sustainable service impacting the international community.

(October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65)

Source: October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65

43.070.2. Eligibility Criteria

1. Candidates must accept the award in person at the Rotary International Convention, with exception being granted in special circumstances.
2. An individual may receive an award only once.
3. Individuals may not be nominated for, or receive an award, posthumously.

4. Current and past RI Directors and Foundation Trustees shall be ineligible to receive the award.

(January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124)

Source: October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65; January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124

43.070.3. Nomination of Candidates

1. Any member of the Rotary community, including Rotarians, alumni, and current program participants can nominate a candidate.
2. Nominations must be made on the prescribed form with a clear description of the candidate's achievements that would qualify him/her for this award; supplementary documentation or material is highly desirable. Nominations must be received at RI World Headquarters by 15 September.
3. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the nomination process and should notify district governors of the deadline and procedures.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 44)

Source: October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 34;

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 44

43.070.4. Selection Process

1. The general secretary will review all nominations to assure candidates meet the eligibility criteria and forward the top ten candidates for each award to the Membership Committee and The Rotary Foundation Awards Review Committee for consideration.
2. The Membership Committee and The Rotary Foundation Awards Review Committee will review and recommend one winner and one alternate to the Board and Trustees at their meetings in January for selection.
3. The recipient of the award will be notified about winning the award immediately after the January meetings of directors and trustees. Upon written acceptance of the award (including a commitment to receive the award in person at the Rotary International Convention), the winner will be announced to the other nominators and regional coordinators, and to the general public, as appropriate. The general secretary is authorized to designate the selected alternate as the award recipient if the primary recipient cannot receive the award at the Rotary convention.
4. Presentation of the award will be made jointly by the trustee chair and RI president during a plenary session at the Rotary International Convention.

(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81)

Source: October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65;

Amended by January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 34; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 44; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81

43.070.5. Involvement of Rotary Alumni Global Service Award Recipients in Rotary Activities
Rotary Institute conveners and regional coordinators are encouraged to invite Award recipients to speak at the Rotary Institute as appropriate and if practicable.

Governors and Governors-elect of those districts where Award recipients reside are encouraged to invite the recipients to the district conference as appropriate and if practicable.

Presidents of Rotary clubs where Award recipients reside are encouraged to grant honorary membership to Rotary Alumni Global Service Award recipients who are not Rotarians and to invite them to club events whenever possible.

Past Award recipients may be invited to participate in RI Conventions whenever appropriate and practical. (*January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101*)

Source: October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65;

Amended by January 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101

43.080. Alumni Association of the Year Award

The purpose of the Rotary Alumni Association of the Year Award is to recognize an alumni association that has increased awareness of the significant role alumni play in Rotary and demonstrated a lasting impact on Rotary programs. Winning associations receive a plaque or banner, recognition in Rotary media, and the opportunity to present their association's work at a significant Rotary event. (*October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65*)

Source: October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65

43.080.1. Award Eligibility

The alumni association must:

1. Be formally chartered by Rotary International
2. Be up-to-date in responding to all requests for information from RI, such as surveys and current officers
3. Enhance the awareness of the value of alumni within Rotary
4. Involve a majority of association members
5. Complete a project or activity over the past twelve months that has impact on either a local or international community
6. Have an online presence through social media, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, or other site
7. Demonstrate collaboration between Rotarians and alumni
8. Support the Object of Rotary and Service Above Self

(*October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65*)

Source: October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65

43.080.2. Nomination Procedure

1. Any member of the Rotary community, including Rotarians, alumni, and current program participants can nominate a candidate.
2. Nominations must be made on the prescribed form with a clear description of the candidate's achievements that would qualify the alumni association for this award; supplementary documentation or material is highly desirable. Nominations must be received at RI World Headquarters by 15 September.
3. The general secretary shall be responsible for the nomination process and should notify district governors of the deadline and procedures.

(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 44)

Source: October 2014 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 34; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 44

43.080.3. Selection Process

1. The general secretary will review all nominations to assure candidates meet the eligibility criteria and forward the top ten candidates for each award to the Membership Committee and The Rotary Foundation Awards Review Committee for consideration.
2. The Membership Committee and The Rotary Foundation Awards Review Committee will recommend one winner and one alternate winner of the Rotary Alumni Association of the Year Award to be presented to the Board and Trustees at their respective meetings in January for selection.
3. The recipient of the award will be notified about winning the award immediately after the January meetings of directors and trustees. Upon written acceptance of the award, the winner will be announced to the other nominators and regional coordinators, and to the general public, as appropriate. The general secretary is authorized to designate the selected alternate as the award recipient if the primary recipient cannot receive the award at the Rotary convention.

(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81)

Source: October 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 34;

Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 44; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67; January 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81

43.090. Rotary Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity

The purpose of this award is to recognize up to 150 non-Rotarians and non-Rotaractors who have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service.

Eligible nominators

District governors may nominate one eligible candidate from their district for this award each year. RI's current special representatives to non-districted Rotary clubs may also each submit one nomination per year.

Eligible nominees

Only non-Rotarians and non-Rotaractors, including the partner of an active Rotarian or Rotaractor in good standing, may be nominated for this award. An individual may only receive the award once.

Nomination criteria

Candidates shall be considered based solely on the humanitarian service they have rendered through Rotary, with an emphasis on personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others. Personal financial contributions to Rotary, its Foundation, or any individual project are not relevant considerations for this award.

Selection of recipients

Up to five current RI Membership Committee members shall review the nominations. Upon selection, RI shall return to the nominator or nominator's designee the Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity crystal for presentation to the nominee. *(October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52)*

Source: January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140;

Amended by January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; June 2021 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177; October 2024 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

43.100. Award Replacement Policy

As a general guideline, replacement items will be issued from Rotary International in the following manner, irrespective of the nature of the loss:

1. Award certificates will be issued electronically to the requestor subject to confirmation that the individual was previously awarded.
2. Tangible items such as plaques, pins, crystals, etc., will be replaced subject to production and/or manufacturer's cost, the expense of which will be the financial responsibility of the requestor.
3. RI staff will ensure the integrity of the award replacement by confirming for the producer/manufacturer the validity of the request and facilitate the ordering of these items.

(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)

Source: January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

43.110. New Award or Recognition Proposals

As a general guideline, the Board shall not adopt a new award or recognition program, unless:

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1. the program is substantively different than any or all components of an existing award or recognition program
2. the new program aligns with Rotary's strategic plan
3. an existing program of similar cost has been eliminated or reduced
4. one or more RI committees has evaluated and developed program components
5. the board has identified tangible expected results along with a period of time (e.g. 2-3 years) to review actual performance
6. there is sufficient time for planning and preparation before the new program's implementation
7. there is sufficient staff and financial support for the start-up and on-going administration of the program

(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)

Source: January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

ARTICLE 44. ROTARY CLUBS, ROTARY DISTRICTS, AND OTHER ROTARY ENTITIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- 44.010.** Development of Service Projects
- 44.020.** Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Interacting with Other Organizations
- 44.030.** Annual Financial Statement from Rotary Programs/Entities using Rotary Name or Requesting Support or Participation
- 44.040.** Guidelines for Clubs to Conduct Projects in Non-Rotary Countries

44.010. Development of Service Projects

Rotary clubs, districts, and other Rotary Entities should consider the following when developing service projects:

1. Community needs assessments
2. The five Avenues of Service
3. The seven areas of focus
4. The RI Strategic Plan
5. The mission of The Rotary Foundation.

(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96)

Source: November 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58;

Amended by June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 223; **Amended by** January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96

44.010.1. Rotary Club, District and Other Rotary Entity Autonomy of Service Projects

Clubs, districts and other Rotary Entities should develop their own programs according to community needs. It is not within the scope of the program of RI to sponsor or prescribe for any club, district or other Rotary Entity a particular service project or program. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96)*

Source: May-June 1927 Mtg., Bd. Dec. XIV(b)(3); November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96

Cross-References

8.010. Club Autonomy of Activities

44.010.2. Service Projects Conducted by Rotary Clubs Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities

Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities are encouraged to support and cooperate with other organizations for the purposes of carrying out and enhancing their own service activities. *(January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96)*

Source: February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213;

44.020. Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts, and Other Rotary Entities for Interacting with Other Organizations

1. These guidelines govern the actions of Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities when interacting with other organizations.
2. Rotary does not endorse its partners, their products or services, policies or positions. Partnership does not imply endorsement or approval of the partner's products or services, policies or positions by Rotary. A partnership does not imply any exclusive arrangement with Rotary. A partnership does not imply any grant of control or influence to the partner over the content of any Rotary activity, publication, position or policy, nor does it imply that Rotary will exert any influence to advance the partner's interests outside the particulars of the arrangements made for the joint initiative, event, or activity. Promotional materials and communications cannot include any wording or design that suggests endorsement or approval of a product or service, policy or position by Rotary.
3. Clubs, districts and other Rotary Entities may support and cooperate with other organizations in projects and activities provided that:
 - a. such initiatives are consistent with Rotary ideals and purposes
 - b. the cooperative activity is approved by the club, district or other Rotary Entity membership concerned
 - c. the cooperation involves direct participation and responsibility by a committee appointed by a club president, district governor or chair of a Rotary Entity designated for the duration of the activity, with provision for annual review
 - d. club, district or other Rotary Entity autonomy as an independent organization is preserved
 - e. the club, district or other Rotary Entity does not become a member of the cooperating organization
 - f. appropriate recognition for club, district or other Rotary Entity is obtained, to the extent that it is warranted by the nature of the cooperation, in the interest of keeping the public informed about Rotary and its service activities
 - g. the club, district or other Rotary Entity and the cooperating organization share in the responsibility of communicating to the public the nature of the joint project or activity
 - h. the club, district or other Rotary Entity does not accept an ongoing
 - i. obligation to participate in the joint project, or
 - ii. financial obligation to the organization, but provides opportunities for Rotary clubs, Rotary districts or other Rotary Entities to review and decide upon continuing participation or financial support of such projects or activities at board meetings, district conferences, annual meetings or by other appropriate means

- i. such activity or cooperative agreement entered into by a club, district or other Rotary Entity does not in any way bind or commit Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation to said activity or agreement.
4. Except as may otherwise be set forth in Article 36, Partnerships, these Guidelines govern the use of the Rotary Marks, including the Rotary International emblem (the “Rotary Marks” are defined in paragraph 6, below) by any Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or any other Rotary Entity when used in combination with the name or logo of another organization.
5. "Rotary Entities" includes Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, a Rotary club or group of clubs, a Rotary district or group of districts (including a multidistrict activity), a Rotary Fellowship, Rotary Action Group, and administrative territorial units of Rotary International. Entities not included in this definition are not permitted to enter into sponsorship or cooperative relationships which use the Rotary Marks without seeking prior Board approval. Individual RI Programs are not considered Rotary Entities.
6. The information in these Guidelines should be referenced in any agreement between any Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or any other Rotary Entity and another organization, including, but not limited to, a sponsor or other cooperating organization, especially the information contained in paragraphs 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, below.
7. RI is the owner of numerous trademarks and service marks throughout the world, including, but not limited to, "Rotary," the Rotary emblem, "Rotary International," "RI," "Rotary Club," "The Rotary Foundation," the Rotary Foundation logo, "Rotarian," "The Rotarian," "Rotaract," "Rotaract Club," the Rotaract emblem, "Interact," "Interact Club," the Interact emblem, "Interactive," "Paul Harris Fellow," the image of Paul Harris, "PolioPlus," the PolioPlus logo, “Service Above Self,” “One Profits Most Who Serves Best,” and the Rotary Centers for Peace and Conflict Resolution logo (the "Rotary Marks"). RI extends the right to use these Marks to Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities under certain limited guidelines for specific authorized uses as further set forth throughout this *Code of Policies* (see Article 33, Rotary Marks, generally).
8. When interacting with other organizations, such as for sponsorship and other cooperative relationship purposes, RI permits Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities to use the Rotary Marks in the following manner(s) and subject to the following provisions.
9. Nothing in the limited use granted herein will constitute an assignment or license of any of the Rotary Marks to any other organization.
10. In situations where Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities are interacting with other organizations, RI will only allow the use of the Rotary Marks in combination with the name or logo of another organization for the limited and specific purpose of promotional materials for the event or project of, or cooperative relationship with, the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity, as further set out in paragraph 10, below.

11. When one of the Rotary Marks is used in combination with the name or logo of another organization, further identifying language of the name of the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity must also be used in close proximity to and in equal prominence with the Rotary Marks. (See Sections 34.030.6.; 34.040.6; 34.040.10.)
12. Whenever any of the Rotary Marks are used in combination with the logo of another organization for sponsorship or cooperative relationship purposes, including any advertisement or promotional materials directly related to a sponsored Rotary event or project (including, but not limited to, banners or signs) the logo of the other organization must be of equal or lesser unit size to that of the Rotary emblem (or other Rotary Marks, at the sole discretion of the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s), other Rotary Entity or RI), unless the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark is part of a repetitive background screen. RI allows for overwriting of the Rotary emblem (or other Rotary Marks) (watermarked, printed, screened or embossed), provided the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark is not otherwise partially covered and/or obstructed. RI agrees that in cases where a sponsor might wish to highlight its role in sponsoring a Rotary event or project in conjunction with its regular advertising, the Rotary emblem may be smaller than the sponsor's logo.
13. The Rotary Marks may not be altered, modified or obstructed in any way but must be reproduced in their entirety. No abbreviations, prefixes or suffixes such as "Rota" are permitted. The simplified wheel is to be used only together with "Rotary" as part of the simplified signature lock-up or with "Interact" or "Rotaract" as part of the simplified signatures for the Programs logos. RI allows for overwriting of the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark (watermarked, printed, screened or embossed), provided the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark is not otherwise partially covered and/or obstructed.

There should be no overlap between another organization's logo and the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark; the two images should be clearly spaced so as to be two separate and distinct images.

For correct color reproductions of the Rotary emblem, current guidelines are found in the Brand Center at <https://brandcenter.rotary.org> which gives further specifications for reproducing the Rotary emblem and guidelines for maintaining a standardized, coordinated identity for all Rotary materials. Rotarians are reminded that Rotary is both a local and a global organization and even local uses may enjoy global recognition through the use of the Internet. Different cultures have different standards and different sensitivities. Any use of the Rotary Marks under these guidelines should attempt to be culturally sensitive and in concert with the Object of Rotary. RI reserves the right to review and approve any uses of the Rotary Marks. The Rotary Marks may not be depicted in combination with images of guns, weapons, or other armaments.

14. The Rotary Marks may only be reproduced by a vendor authorized to do so. Whenever, possible, therefore, reproductions of the Rotary Marks should be done by an officially licensed vendor. If the desired goods are not reasonably available from a RI licensee, a release must be obtained from the RI Licensing Section.
15. Each use of any of the Rotary Marks in combination with the name or logo of another organization should be subject to a pre-publication review and approval process on the

part of the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity or by RI. RI, the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity should retain the sole right to specific denial or authorization or, in the case of alteration (of copy or layout), to be mutually agreed upon by the parties.

16. The Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity should retain control over where promotional materials are published in any medium, including where banners or signs are allowed to be displayed when any of the Rotary Marks are used in combination with the name or logo of another organization.
17. The Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity should reserve the right to approve publications or other media in which any other organization wishes to advertise or otherwise promote a relationship using the Rotary Marks.
18. Membership lists, except by Board authorization, must stay within the control of RI, the district(s), the club(s), and/or other Rotary Entity(ies) involved. However, any determination to allow access to membership lists must respect the individual rights of Rotarians, including relevant legal restrictions.
19. Any use of the Rotary Marks in combination with the name or logo of another organization should
 - a. Be consistent with Rotary's values and local cultural norms
 - b. Be in accord with the Object of Rotary, and
 - c. Enhance Rotary's public image and reputation.

(February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76)

Source: October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86;

Amended by August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133; February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 224; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 385; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 71; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70; January 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 182; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; June 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 242; May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166; May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 195; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; June 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172; September 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 24; April 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159; April 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29; February 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76

44.020.1. Club Lists and Membership Lists Not to be Furnished to Other Organizations

Lists of clubs, their officers or committee members, or Rotarians shall not be furnished to other organizations, except:

1. to meet legal requirements of government agencies or
2. by the assent of the Board or its Executive Committee; provided that the Board or its Executive Committee may not furnish such lists in violation of any applicable laws.

(February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219)

Source: January 1941 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103, January 1955 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; October 1988 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 114;

Amended by February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219

44.030. Annual Financial Statement from Rotary Programs/Entities Using Rotary Name or Requesting Support or Participation

Any unofficial Rotary program, group, or entity using the word “Rotary” in its name or requesting support or participation from Rotarians, Rotary clubs, and/or Rotary districts is requested to submit an annual financial statement showing revenues and expenditures during the past Rotary year, and a statement of funds on hand at the time of the report, to its members and participants, and to the general secretary upon request, by 1 October in each year. In lieu of submitting reports to members and participants, this annual statement may be posted on any website existing for the organization and shall remain on the website until the report for the following year is posted. *(January 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142)*

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109

44.040. Guidelines for Clubs to Conduct Projects in Non-Rotary Countries

RI has adopted the following guidelines to assist clubs and districts in carrying out international service projects in countries with no Rotary presence:

1. Under no circumstances should the club or any of the members undertake any formal or informal extension activities in the project country. Extension is the responsibility of the Board.
2. The purpose, scope, time frame, beneficiaries, and role of the club should be clearly explained to the leaders of the community in which the project is undertaken, as well as to government authorities in the area.
3. A complete outline of the project prospectus, including purposes, objectives, in-country contacts, extent and kind of involvement of other organizations and government agencies, timetable for completion, and whether Foundation grant funding is being sought should be provided to the governor with a copy to the general secretary before the project is implemented.
4. A project status report should be provided to the governor with a copy to the general secretary on a semiannual basis.
5. The club should ensure that the project does not violate the laws of the country of the club, or the project country, and has received approval from the appropriate government authority of the project country to undertake the project.
6. If working in cooperation with another organization(s) the club should determine that such organization(s) is registered and acts within the laws of the project country.

(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94

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