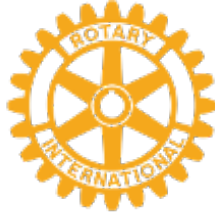


Rotary
District 9800



2021

INTERACT

Guidelines for
Clubs on the
process to be
followed to
establish an
Interact Club

Contents

What is Interact?

The benefits of Interact for its members

Six Steps to follow to establish an Interact Club

1. Establish Rotary Club Support (single Rotary Club)
 2. Identify potential Interactors
 3. Organise an information meeting
 4. Hold an organisational meeting
 5. Complete the Paperwork
 6. Plan an Inaugural Ceremony
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What is Interact?

Interact is Rotary International's service Club for young people aged 12 to 18.

Interact Clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary Clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting.

Clubs can be single gender or mixed, large or small. They can draw from the student body of a single school or from two or more schools in the same community.

Each year, Interact Clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill.

The benefits of Interact for its members

Interactors develop a network of friendships with local and overseas Clubs and learn the importance of:

- Developing leadership skills and personal integrity
- Demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others
- Understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work
- Experience of participating in committees of management
- Advancing international understanding and goodwill.

Six Steps to follow to establish an Interact Club

1. Establish Rotary Club Support (single Rotary Club)

- Form an Interact Subcommittee within the Rotary Club.
- Ensure the requirements of Interact sponsorship are well understood.
- Liaise with the District Interact Chair for further information including examples of how best practice Interact Clubs operate.

Present to the Rotary Club and:

- Highlight the rewards of sponsoring service-minded young people.
- Emphasise the importance of Rotarian involvement and support to an Interact Club's success.

Seek approval from the Rotary Club Board.

Ensure there is an Interact Club Champion ie a Rotarian who will champion the cause of Interact within the Rotary Club.

Appoint a Rotarian adviser.

1.1 Type of Interact Club

The Interact Club can be community or school based.

Community based Interact Club

- A community-based club draws its members from several schools from the Rotary club's area.
- The Rotarian adviser must attend all of the Interact club's meetings.

School based Interact Club

- A school-based club draws its members from one school.
- The Rotarian adviser is required to attend only the club's board meetings.
- When a Rotary Club decides to sponsor a school-based Interact club, a member of the Interact sub-committee should meet with school officials to explain the program and its advantages.
- Rotarians and school officials should work together to determine membership requirements, club policies, the time and location of Interact club meetings, and the teacher co-ordinator.

1.2 Joint sponsorship of an Interact Club

An Interact club can be organised and sponsored by more than one Rotary Club if all the following conditions are met:

- The district governor approves the arrangement in writing.
- Sponsor clubs demonstrate that organising separate Interact clubs, each sponsored by a single Rotary Club, would divide what is essentially a single body of young people within a school or community.
- A joint Interact committee is formed with members from each of the sponsor Rotary Clubs.

2. Identify potential Interactors

Brainstorm to develop as wide a membership pool as possible.

Develop a brochure to attract new members

2.1 School based club

In a school-based club, ask the teacher co-ordinator to offer suggestions for possible club members.

2.2 Community based club

Sources of potential Interactors include:

- Community centres
- Churches
- Athletic clubs and teams
- Secondary schools
- Sons, daughters, and other young family members of Rotarians in the area
- Rotary Youth Exchange students
- Attendees at Rotary Youth programs

3. Organise an information meeting

3.1 Invitees to an information meeting

Along with the prospective Interactors, the following adults should be invited:

Interact Subcommittee members
Rotary Club President
District Interact Chair
Teacher Co-ordinator (for a school-based club)

Additionally consider inviting Interactors from nearby clubs who can share their experiences and answer questions at the meeting

3.2 Format of an information meeting

The meeting should include:

- Information about Interact's history, as well as Rotary's history and commitment to young people.
- Explain the policies and goals of Interact, including a description of some recent Interact service projects at other clubs.
- Highlight the program's internationality, including the potential to partner with youth in other parts of the world.
- Allow plenty of time for prospective Interactors to ask questions.
- Solicit ideas for club projects from these future members.

At the end of the meeting:

- Take a vote to confirm that there is interest to establish an Interact club.
- Keep in mind that a minimum of 15 charter members is recommended but not mandated.
- Set a date for the first organisational meeting.

4. Hold an organisational meeting

Encourage the Interact Club to schedule organisational meetings no more than two weeks apart to maintain enthusiasm.

The Rotarian adviser and faculty adviser (if school based) should keep a record of contact details of attendees.

Encourage attendees to bring their friends to meetings.

There is not a specific number of organisational meetings required before a club can be chartered.

4.1 Tasks prior to Charter

Certain tasks need to be completed before applying for a club charter:

- Hold elections for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and other members of the Interact club board.
- Develop a membership plan to ensure the club includes a balanced membership.
- Discuss and establish annual club dues (if applicable).
- Determine where and when club meetings will be held. Clubs must meet at least twice a month.
- Begin planning for service activities, fundraising events, and the inaugural ceremony.
- Familiarise club members with the constitutional documents.

4.2 Governance Documentation

Before a prospective club can be chartered, it must adopt the Standard Interact Club Constitution and all its amendments, then adopt Bylaws consistent with the Constitution and policy established by Rotary International. These Bylaws are subject to the approval of the sponsor Rotary Club.

5. Complete the Paperwork

Once a prospective Interact club has achieved a strong membership base, the club can be chartered by Rotary International.

The sponsor Rotary Club should work with Interactors to finish the following tasks:

- Complete the Interact Club Certification Form, listing all charter members who have agreed to attend a minimum of 60 percent of the club's service and social activities.
- Obtain the signatures of the sponsor Rotary Club President and the District Governor on the form.
- Send the form to RI World Headquarters or the appropriate international office.
- Once the Interact Club has been chartered, which typically takes about two to four weeks, the sponsor Rotary club will receive the Club's Certificate of Organisation from RI.

6. Plan an Inaugural Ceremony

The chartering of an Interact Club is a meaningful and exciting event and should be celebrated.

The sponsor Rotary Club may wish to host an inaugural ceremony where sponsoring Rotarians can welcome Interactors as partners in Rotary service.

Invite Rotary district leaders, such as the District Governor, Interact chair, and Interact representative, to this celebration to introduce the new Interact club to the district.

Every inaugural ceremony is unique, but modelling it after the sponsor Rotary club's traditions is a good way to begin.

Here are some other ways to put together a memorable ceremony:

- Create an inauguration ceremony program book that lists club members' names.
- Briefly explain Rotary and The Four-Way Test.
- Describe how the new Interactors are now part of the family of Rotary.
- Review the history of Interact and how the new club was formed.
- Induct members individually and announce board members and officers.
- Include school or community-related themes, mottoes, and traditions.
- Present each member with an Interact pin and badges to President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and projects Chairs
- Take photos to commemorate the event.