

Rotary Club of Vancouver Interact Clubs

Interact is an international organization of service and social clubs for young people of secondary school age that fosters leadership and responsible citizenship and promotes international understanding and peace. The name was created by combining the words "international" and "action." Interact clubs are sponsored by Rotary clubs as a program of Rotary International. Rotary clubs provide guidance and inspiration, but the Interact clubs are self-governing and self-supporting. Clubs take a variety of forms, both single-gender and mixed as well as large and small. The membership base of a club can be drawn from the student body of a single school or from two or more schools from the same community.

Each year, Interact clubs complete at least one community service project and at least one project that furthers international understanding and goodwill. Interactors develop a worldwide network of friendships through exchanges with local and overseas clubs. Along the way, Interactors develop their leadership skills and initiative while meeting new friends.

Through their service activities, Interactors 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
- advancing international understanding and goodwill

The first Interact club was initiated in 1962 by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida, USA. Two months later, the first Interact club outside the United States was established in Tanjore, India. Today there are more than 7,780 Interact clubs in some 107 countries and geographical areas, making Interact a truly worldwide phenomenon.

Rotary Club of Vancouver Rotaract Clubs

Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are usually community-based or university-based and are sponsored by a local Rotary club making them true "partners in service" and key members of the Rotary family.

Through the Rotaract program, young adults not only augment their knowledge and skills, but they also address the physical and social needs of their communities while promoting international understanding and peace through a framework of friendship and service.

All Rotaract efforts begin at the local grassroots level and Rotaract clubs have access to many of the resources of Rotary International and [The Rotary Foundation](#).

As one of the most significant and fastest-growing programs of Rotary service, with more than 7,600 Rotaract clubs in some 158 countries, Rotaract has become a worldwide phenomenon.

Rotaractors also often spearhead the formation of [Interact clubs](#) and participate in [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#). Rotaractors also can go on to become [Ambassadorial Scholars](#) or [Group Study Exchange](#) team members.

For more information about Rotaract in your area, contact your local Rotary club or your [local Rotary club](#). Visit the [Rotaract Discussion Forum](#) to view or participate in conversations about club projects and activities with Rotaractors from around the world.

Rotary Club of Vancouver Youth Exchange

Student responsibilities

All students are ambassadors of the Rotary club that sponsored them and of their country. They are expected to follow the Youth Exchange program [rules](#), be open to new experiences, and strive to learn the language of the host country.

The student and his/her own family will assume certain financial obligations. These include round-trip air transportation, clothing, health insurance, administrative fees and incidental expenses.

Host family responsibilities

As a Rotary Youth Exchange host family, it is your responsibility to provide room and board for your exchange student. You are also expected to exercise general parental supervision over the student just as you would your own children, and involve him or her in daily household chores and activities.

However, most host families' involvement with their student does not stop at room and board. The families often share their native background while also learning about their visitors' culture. This does not mean that you have to arrange elaborate entertainment, but simply make the student a part of your family. Give him or her the opportunity to share in the same aspects of your family life that most teenage students experience in your culture.

Other suggested host family responsibilities include:

- meeting your exchange student on arrival in your country and making the student feel at home as part of the family;
- helping the student achieve language mastery;
- involving the student in obligations similar to those established for your own family members;
- helping the student meet Rotary obligations, which usually include attending Rotary functions, including club and/or district meetings;
- seeing that the student meets other young people;
- providing a safe environment for the student and ensuring the student's safety;
- being tolerant of differences and willing to change your own ideas.

Rotarian responsibilities

Rotarians work to take care of the logistics of the exchange. As all Youth Exchanges are carried out at the local level, the local Rotary club and district will arrange school enrollment, tuition and other educational matters with the local secondary school (for long-term exchanges). All program volunteers are devoted to the safety of the students,

and the host club and district maintain policies and procedures to protect the students. Local Rotarians also introduce the student to the other club members and organize some social and cultural functions for the student to attend.

For long-term exchanges, the hosting club or district appoints a Rotarian counselor and arranges a monthly allowance for the student. The Rotarian counselor maintains contact with the host family and the student throughout the exchange.

While Rotary International offers support to local Rotary Youth Exchange programs through [publications](#) and suggested [guidelines](#), Rotary districts and clubs run their programs independently of Rotary International. Therefore, each club or district program has its own specific rules for youth exchange participants to follow.