Rotaract Club
Inauguration Ceremony

Although there is no prescribed ceremony to celebrate the charter of a new Rotaract club, it is important to recognize this event with some formality. The sponsoring Rotary club, along with the District Governor, District Rotaract Chairperson and Representative (if possible), are encouraged to present the Rotaract club with the official Rotaract charter certificate and welcome the Rotaractors into the Rotary family.

Modeling the occasion after the sponsoring Rotary club traditions is a good way to get started. The following ideas for topics to present, examples of script, and ceremony suggestions can be adapted accordingly.

What is Rotary?

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Over 1.2 million Rotarians, from virtually every nation, plan and carry out a remarkable variety of humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs that touch people's lives in their local communities and our world community.

The 4-Way Test

Rotarians pledge to uphold the 4-Way Test "in things they say and do" and as a Rotaractor, you too, are asked to make an effort to support these principles:

1. *Is it the TRUTH?*
2. *Is it FAIR to all concerned?*
3. *Will it build GOODWILL and better friendships?*
4. *Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

A Member of the Rotary Family

By joining Rotaract, you are uniting with 219,000 young adults in 178 countries and geographic areas who belong to over 9,500 Rotaract clubs around the world. Along with commitment to community and international service, Rotaractors strive to develop leadership and professional skills that will benefit them throughout their career.

History

Rotaract, Rotary International's service club program for young adults ages 18-30, was officially inaugurated during January 1968 under RI President Luther Hodges. On March 13, 1968 the Rotaract Club of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, sponsored by the Rotary Club of North Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S.A., was the first Rotaract Club to receive its official charter. Although this club is recognized as the first Rotaract club, Rotarians have been sponsoring similar organizations for young adults since the early 1920s. Joining in this truly international phenomenon, the Rotaract club of _____ developed...... (provide a unique account of how, why, and when your new Rotaract club became a reality).

Induction of Members

(This can be done as a group, or individually.)
Introduce members: "_____, it is our pleasure to formally induct you into this Rotaract club of_____. You are asked to promise to do goodwill within your community and your country. In addition to service, you will have the benefits of strong bonds of friendship with fellow Rotaractors, locally and worldwide, as well as the chance to develop strong leadership and professional skills."

Introduction of Officers and Board Members

Announce each officer and their position. Emphasize the importance of their positions as leaders of the new club and that their leadership is essential to it's success and continuity. Ask that they are familiar with and uphold the Rotaract Constitution and Bylaws. Allow each officer to say a few words and give a brief outline of their goals for the new Rotaract club.

Symbolic Gesture of Rotaract club Membership

Consider presenting each Rotaractor with a Rotaract pin to symbolize their membership. Or, a banner or flag for the club to display at their meetings and events. (Merchandise can be ordered through RI's licensed vendors.)

Ceremony pamphlet

Create a short agenda for the inauguration and include the names of the Rotaractors and others involved in the event. Distribute at the beginning of the program.

Photo Opportunity

Take photos to commemorate the event and share with future Rotaractors!