

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park

Current members of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park (RCCSP) invite colleagues, friends and family to consider joining our Club. It is by this invitation that we really want prospective members to know how important the role of being a member of our Club is. Each potential member fills out a nomination form, are interviewed by members of our Club, the Board votes on acceptability and the general membership is advised and can raise any questions or concerns they may have. After that, you will be invited to be a member. Joining RCCSP is for service above self; not to promote your business or charity. The friendships are forever-lasting and meaningful as we work to make the globe a better place for all.

Becoming a member of RCCSP connects you with a diverse and dynamic group of caring and energetic community leaders who share your drive to give back. Through participation in regular meetings, participation in our many committees and events, you'll:

- I. Impact your community's needs and beyond
- II. Connect with other leaders who are changing the world
- III. Expand your leadership and professional skills by working with like-minded members
- IV. Stay connected with good friends and meet new ones

Impact starts with our members — people like you who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change as a global network that strives to build a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. Rotary values diversity and celebrates the contributions of people of all backgrounds regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

RCCSP is engaging and welcoming. We expect all members, including new members, to generously contribute in time, personal and company funds, talent and treasure, locally and internationally. We enjoy time spent together socially and in service, in an atmosphere of goodwill. As community leaders, we proudly embrace Calgary's entrepreneurial spirit and western values to make a positive impact in the lives of people in need and in our members.

This package is designed to meet the needs of;

Prospective members, (pages 2-6)

Incoming members (pages 7–8) and

Sponsors (page 9)

... so that at each stage there is clear understanding of expectations, roles and responsibilities.

Section A: **Prospective** Members

Hello! We warmly welcome you as a **prospective** member to the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park (RCCSP). We are confident you will find membership to be enjoyable and personally enriching. The following information is about Rotary in general, and specifically, our Club – the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park.

Rotary is a Service Organization – not strictly a business networking organization. That said, Rotary was founded in 1905 by a group of businessmen in Chicago. Rotary world-wide now enjoys over 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves members in over 46,000 clubs. You can find more information about Rotary in general at www.Rotary.org.

Our Club is the second largest in Calgary with over 125 members. We raise well over \$1 million every year which is donated back into the local and worldwide community. We have a strong business plan and a comprehensive marketing and communications plan. The Club is run like a business, all by accomplished volunteers with one paid part-time administrative staff person. Our Club is financially sound and very fiscally responsible. We want all of our members to be able to donate, volunteer and guide the Club. We want our members to be professionals, business leaders, government and community leaders, educators, problem solvers, etc. Although we do not promote our businesses actively during our Rotary meetings, we do receive some business connections through referrals from fellow Rotarians, and from the community at large simply because we are Rotarians.

OUR ROTARY HOUSE

The majority of our weekly meetings are held in Rotary House located on Stampede Park. We meet on Thursdays from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. Parking is free when attending our meetings (just mention to the park security that you are attending the Rotary meeting and they will flag you through). As far as we know, our Club is the only Rotary Club in the world that has its own beautiful log house as seen on the last page of this package, which we are very proud of. The venue itself warmly welcomes everyone who walks through its front doors and sparks an atmosphere of friendship.

While we are very good at fundraising, we enjoy many laughs, camaraderie, and having fun with each other. We are open, casual, informal, and irreverent. We have some long-standing traditions at our meetings that sets us apart from many other clubs – yet are the keys to our very social environment. Weekly bulletins provide a sense of what occurs at each meeting but cannot replicate the high spirits and camaraderie we share in person. That is why we encourage at least 60% or more weekly attendance.

The Rotary Mottos are “**Service Above Self**” and “**One Profits Most Who Serves Best**”. Our Club’s Mission is “**To create a community of Rotarians coming together in fellowship to combine wisdom, talent, and energy for the purpose of making a positive impact on the community and the world**”. Our Club’s Vision is “**We are a vibrant, energetic, and enthusiastic club with focus on providing service to the local and worldwide community**”. Simply put, we do good while having fun.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Attendance – we have a very high standard for attendance. Our Club expects our members to attend 80% of the weekly meetings with at least 60% attendance at RCCSP.

Service – We have over 30 committees that are waiting for you to join and participate in. It is expected that you will be in at least 2 committees. Our major fundraiser is the Dream Home and you are expected to fill at least 8 shifts (you and your connections).

Financial – There is an initiation fee and annual fees that must be paid. Additionally, the weekly meetings have lunch at your cost.

Membership – Every member bears responsibility for keeping our Club growing and healthy by proposing membership of the professionals in your life.

Please think carefully about this commitment and talk about it with your family and sponsors. Take your time and when you feel ready, we will proceed.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The financial commitment includes a one-time \$400 administration fee and a current annual membership of \$500 (pro-rated to when you join), this cost may change depending on Board and budget consideration. In addition, the weekly luncheon varies from \$10 - \$30 depending on your menu selection. Assuming you attend the estimated 50 luncheons per year, and support the small 50/50 draw each week, lunch costs will be an estimated \$1,750 annually. Each week we welcome interesting and knowledgeable speakers, and we learn something new while enjoying the camaraderie of the meetings. The average Rotarian attends approximately 70% of the weekly luncheon meetings. Rotary as an organization offers a program called “make-up meetings” where a Rotarian is welcome at any club in the world, and it counts towards your attendance. This is one of the many strengths of joining Rotary – a worldwide connection with people who believe in **service above self**.

FUNDRAISING

The main fundraisers for our Club are the Rotary Dream Home and the Stampede 50/50 – two very large lotteries operated by the Calgary Stampede Lotteries Committee. We collectively donate hundreds of shifts over 11 days of the famous Calgary Stampede by selling lottery tickets to the public. The Calgary Stampede in turn provides our Club with more than \$600,000 annually through a contract we share. This money is then thoughtfully distributed to over 50 charities in Calgary and area. Every Club member is responsible for either directly or indirectly covering eight shifts of selling lottery tickets or doing other related work during the Calgary Stampede. Members often join forces with friends and family to sell together in our lottery booths sprinkled across the entire Stampede Park. This leads to very fun days and evenings, all the while earning funds from our donated hours that we later donate financially to charity. We have a lot of fun during the Calgary Stampede and often find ourselves being placed on a waitlist to sell tickets.

We have a second major annual fundraiser called the “Kids at Heart” Golf tournament. People who participate in many golf tournaments often rate our Club’s tournament as one of the best in Calgary. The funds raised (usually well over \$200,000 annually) go to a very few carefully selected local charities whose focus is on our community’s youth. There are many opportunities to be involved, whether you golf or not, yet there is no requirement to participate in this tournament.

Members have the option and are strongly encouraged to consider donations to the Rotary International Foundation (RI), the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (CRCF) and to our Club directly. RI Foundation’s current focus is eradicating Polio, which we are very close to accomplishing. RI is also instrumental in many other world initiatives such as providing clean drinking water and healthy medical facilities. CRCF helps thousands of people in need from all walks of life right here in our local community. Both Foundations are very well managed as confirmed by outside auditors and add high value to individuals, families, and society in general. Donating directly to our Club helps with our community projects and Club operations. Many of our members donate to one or all three options.

There are also many opportunities to volunteer directly for other causes throughout the year – often being a donation of time versus money. These include helping sort food and prepare hampers at the Calgary Food Bank, registration duties at the Terry Fox Run, cooking and serving meals at the Mustard Seed, judging at the St. Mary’s High School debate club, serving food at charity dinners, and so much more. Our Club has also formed many smaller groups of members and partners who enjoy activities together such hiking, snowshoeing, bird watching, bridge, book club, dinner club, and more. In addition to the weekly luncheons, we have a very active social committee which plans engaging events for everyone to enjoy throughout the year.

ROTARY PARTNERS

Our Club boasts a very active Rotary Partners group which welcomes spouses and partners of Rotarians. This important group is an extension of our Club. In appreciation of their help at the Calgary Stampede, the Kids at Heart Golf tournament, and support of the many community activities we take on, the Rotary Partners receive funds annually from the Club to research and invest in charities they feel are important to support. The Rotary Partners get together frequently for business meetings and social events and always welcome newcomers. Depending on your spouse’s or partner’s interests and time availability, he/she is most welcome to get involved with the Rotary Partners.

TIME COMMITMENT

Like every service organization, Rotary can take up as much time as you allow it to. Of course, the more time you put in, the more value you get out. It mimics the saying “the more you give, the more you get.” Our Club has an estimated 35 committees and members tend to work on 2 or 3 committees of their choice. Some committees are very active while others may take only a few hours per year. Depending on your personal circumstances, you decide on the level of involvement you want on an ongoing basis.

ROTARY'S FOUR WAY TEST

One of the fundamental requirements of all Rotarians is to commit to the "***Rotary Four Way Test***" which will be found in every Rotary club in the world.....and on most Rotarian's office walls.

"Of the things we think, say, or do,

Is it the Truth?

Is it Fair to all concerned?

Will it build Good Will and Better Friendships?

Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?"

We are sure you agree, these are great principles to follow in our everyday lives, and in every walk of life.

ROTARY EVENTS

Many Rotarians choose to get involved beyond our local Club, and there are well-established ways to do so. An annual District 5360 Conference is hosted for members in the Alberta and Saskatchewan District, which our Club belongs to. The Rotary International Convention is held in a different world-class city each year. These events are excellent opportunities to learn about and get involved with Rotary at a broader level and enhance your overall Rotary experience.

We are excited that our Club helped lead Calgary to become the world's host - welcoming the Rotary International Convention in June of 2025. It will be one of the largest conventions ever held in Calgary. Our Club is proudly taking a lead role in staging this event when we expect to welcome over 30,000 Rotarians and their families. Our goal is to host "The Best Ever Rotary International Convention."

Are you ready to apply to be a member of RCCSP?

As the next step, we invite you to attend a few of our weekly Club meetings. If you enjoy your experience and would like to join our Club, we will walk you through the application and acceptance process for membership. We trust this information has answered many of the basic questions you might have about Rotary in general, and about our Club in particular. It's helpful now to reflect on two questions and thoughtfully prepare answers for yourself:

Why do I want to join Rotary? And, what are my personal expectations of becoming a member of the RCCSP?

FINAL THOUGHTS

Most people join Rotary because they want to be of service and make a contribution, financially and/or by donating time, to our communities – close to home and abroad.

Members stay engaged with Rotary because they enjoy the people and the fellowship, and because they see the positive impact Rotary makes locally and internationally.

A member can resign from Rotary and our Club or transfer to another club (there are general processes to follow). But our experience is that most are very engaged Rotarians for decades. Being a Rotarian and a member of our Club has enhanced their life, and their family's lives, in unexpected and wonderful ways. Many Rotarians discover life-long friendships and an invaluable network that spans the world.

We invite you to **apply to** join this incredible organization that puts service above self. Remember - the more you give in time, talent and treasure, the more you get.

Attachment #1 – Application to become member

Attachment #2 – First interview format

Attachment #3 – Second interview format

Section B: Incoming Members

Congratulations! You have completed the application process and have been accepted as a member of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park! We all look forward to getting to know you!

Your sponsors are your best link to becoming comfortable in our Club. Please keep in close contact with them as you go through your orientation.

Each new member will receive:

From our Administration Assistant:

- A copy of the most recent membership roster (or how to find it on ClubRunner)
- A copy of the 4-way test
- Email from our Administration Assistant showing:
 - a) ClubRunner access and how to use it in a one-page instruction
 - b) Links to access information such as the Club's finances
 - c) PDF of late member Peter Penner's book titled '*Manchester to Calgary South*'
 - d) Parking pass and information for weekly meetings
 - e) Meal registration website and process
 - f) Who to contact for what
 - g) Club organization chart
 - h) Copy of the Strategic Plan (and where to find it on website)
 - i) Committee link and suggestion to pick one or two and contact the Director or Chair to join. Include the expectation that the new member will be part of the Committee for the 'new member's event'
 - j) Dues (how to pay)
 - k) New Member orientation/onboarding process – "red-stripe list"
 - l) Welcome to the office to enjoy a coffee/tea/water
 - m) Here is a sample of the email the new member will receive (it will be adjusted periodically to match the changing needs of our Club:

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park! We are so pleased to have you join us. Firstly, I would like to formally introduce myself, I am the Administrative Assistant for the Club - Sarah Brown. My email is admin@rotarycs.org and the office phone number is 403-244-9788. My office hours are Mon-Wed 10-2pm, Thursday we meet in person and I am available from 10am-5pm, and Friday is a flex day, but only available if necessary.

Your first resource will be your Sponsor, Seconder, Committee Chair or Director.

If you are coming in part way through the year, the dues are prorated for the remainder of the year and I will send an invoice shortly. Dues are payable by cheque, cash, card (in person on Thursdays) or online through Club Runner. Let me know your preference and I will guide you from there.

Please take a look at our committees and choose one or more that you would be interested in joining and reach out to the Chair or Director to get yourself involved or ask your sponsor, again email me if you have any questions. The link to the Committee listing is:

<https://www.crsadmin.com/gen/Committee/CommitteeList.aspx?SelectedId=6e90c4eb-e1fc-40e3-98ce-abadd6b38034&aid=952>

Here is the link to a book about our Club written by a past member Peter Penner:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/194KuCeOqKldt0vxonPDAP7sd1w6VxKFB/view?usp=sharing>

We look forward to working with you to make our community, and beyond, a better place!

Follow us on socials:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Rotarycs>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rotarystampedepark>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/rotary-club-of-calgary-at-stampede-park>

Thanks,

Grayce Glassford, Administrative Assistant at Rotary Club at Stampede Park

Our office address:

200 Rivercrest Drive SE #120, Calgary, AB T2C 2X5

Website: www.rotarycs.org

Office Hours: Mon-Wed 10-2pm, Thurs 10-5, Fri as necessary

From the President:

The Welcome to RCCSP package and badge

From the Membership Committee:

Arrangements for the induction process

Attachment #4 - Arranging the Classification talk you will present to the Club at a later time

Attachment #5 – Red Stripe format

Section C: Sponsors

Thank you very much for sponsoring a new member of our Club! It is through members like you that will ensure our Club will continue to be vibrant for years to come. Sponsorship comes with responsibilities. Both the nominator and seconder are equal partners in orienting and supporting the new member you sponsored.

- Ensure the prospective/new member knows the financial expectations
- Assist the new members to feel welcome at the weekly meetings, committee meetings and at social events
- Encourage the new member to sit at different tables to meet more members
- Start working on the red-stripe list items, and when done, you get to 'tear a strip off'
- Discuss the committees and ensure the new member gets engaged
- When the red-stripe list is done send the completed form into the Administrative Assistant for input and filing
- Periodically check in with the new member to ensure they are comfortable and engaged

Thanks again – you are a great Rotarian!

