

Prospective Member Frequently Asked Questions – Revised January 2026

Q. What is Rotary?

Rotary is a diverse global network of friends, neighbors and community leaders who come together to make a difference by creating positive and lasting change at home and around the world. There are 45,000+ Rotary Clubs throughout the world consisting of 1.2 million+ members. Clubs meet weekly for fellowship, a meal, and an informative program. Clubs also identify opportunities for service projects in their communities and throughout the world, often partnering with other clubs to plan and execute them.

Rotary's motto is **“Service Above Self.”** Belonging to a Rotary Club is a wonderful way to make new friends while doing good in the world and provides a wonderful platform for service-minded individuals to put their energy, ideas, and passion for service to work. [Rotary International - our parent organization – has its headquarters in Evanston, IL.](#)

Q. Who can join the Rotary Club of Schaumburg A.M.?

Membership is open to service-minded individuals - from young professionals to retired seniors - who live or work in the Schaumburg area or have another connection to our community and are interested in making new friends while doing good in the world. Members include local business owners, service providers, educators, community and non-profit leaders, volunteers and others interested in making our community and the world a better place.

Q. What are the obligations of membership?

New members are expected to regularly attend our club meetings and to find ways to participate in the club's activities, service projects and fundraisers. However, there is no strict attendance requirement, and we understand that our lives are busy with many demands placed on our time.

New members may get involved by suggesting guest speakers for our weekly meetings, by helping with club administration and PR, by serving on our membership committee, by serving on planning committees for our major projects and club fundraisers, by participating in our occasional hands-on service projects and by financially supporting the club's projects. Everyone has their own passions and talents, so no two Rotarians participate in the same way, but all members are expected to participate in some way.

What you get out of Rotary depends on what you put into it.

Q. Is weekly attendance mandatory?

Our club has a fairly loose attendance requirement. New members are expected to regularly attend weekly meetings, generally maintaining at least 50% attendance. Members are encouraged to “make up” missed meetings by attending another local Rotary meeting (a list of local clubs and meeting times and locations may be found on the [Rotary District 6440 website.](#)) As life circumstances change, established members sometimes find they cannot continue to regularly attend meetings, but they wish to continue supporting the club and be a part of Rotary. The club's Board determines when it is acceptable for a member to maintain their membership while not being an active weekly participant in the club.

Q. What does it cost to be a member?

Please refer to our club's Estimated Annual Membership Cost Summary for more detailed information.

Q. What are the club's service and charitable projects?

Our service projects change over time, as new members bring different and innovative ideas to the club.

In recent years, our projects have included:

- ✓ Providing new winter coats to local at-risk children from low-income families
- ✓ Participating in "Feed My Starving Children" meal packing events which sends pre-packaged meals to hungry children around the world
- ✓ Passing the hat monthly for voluntary monetary donations that benefit the Schaumburg Twp. food pantry
- ✓ Sponsoring the Interact Club at Robert Frost Jr. High School
- ✓ Supporting our skilled trades focused community vocational scholarship program
- ✓ Annually providing community grants to local humanitarian service agencies that provide essential services to the most vulnerable
- ✓ Supporting Rotary International's campaign to eradicate polio from the world
- ✓ Conducting fundraising events that benefit the Schaumburg A.M. Rotary Club Foundation, the charitable arm of our club, and the source of funding for the projects and programs that we as a club elect to support.

Q. Is Rotary a business networking group?

The main focus of a Rotary club is service to our local and global communities. Club meetings are devoted to learning about community needs and those organizations that are best positioned to meet those needs, in addition to planning club service projects and community-based fundraisers that support a variety of club initiatives.

The Rotary Means Business (RMB) Fellowship meetings (which are different from club meetings) are designed to feature business focused fellowship and networking events that encourage Rotarians to support the success of their fellow Rotarians by doing business with them and by referring others to them. RMB is an extracurricular activity and fringe benefit of being a Rotarian.

Check out these websites to learn more about this fellowship.



<https://www.rotarymeansbusiness.org/>

<https://www.rmbchicagoland.com/>

Q. How do I apply for membership?

Prospective Rotary Club members are vetted through a structured process that emphasizes alignment with Rotary values, community involvement, and member sponsorship. Ideally a current club member nominates you as a prospective member.

You should plan to attend at least 3 club meetings before applying for membership so our members get to know you and you get to know us. Be prepared to briefly share your personal & professional background and tell us why you want to join our club.

Upon receipt, our membership committee will review your application, and if approved, club members will be given a ten-day notice to review and comment on your application. Following that a representative of our membership committee or your sponsor will notify you about the status of your application. If accepted you will be invited to your first official meeting, at which time you will be formally inducted into the club.

[Click here to complete our online membership application.](#)