

Prospective Member Frequently Asked Questions – Revised Sept 2020

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 35,000+ 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 great 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 - is headquartered 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 weekly 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 very 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 particular passions and talents, so no two Rotarians participate in exactly the same way, but all members are expected to participate in some way.

What you get out of Rotary largely 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's 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?

Members are billed approximately \$100/quarter that covers the following -

- 1) annual dues of \$75/quarter payable to our club, Rotary International (RI) and Rotary District 6440
- 2) a subscription to Rotary, RI's monthly member magazine
- 3) \$25/quarter transferred to The Rotary Foundation in support of the **EREY** Program (see details below)

Our club has a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation (the Schaumburg A.M. Rotary Club Foundation), as does Rotary International (The Rotary Foundation - TRF).

All Rotarians are encouraged to contribute to TRF's **EREY** Program (**Every Rotarian, Every Year**) in support of TRF's humanitarian and educational programs (a \$100 donation is suggested, but more or less is acceptable, according to your means). *This is billed in quarterly increments of \$25 and is included in the above mentioned dollar amount. Your EREY donation is forwarded from the club to TRF in your name on an annual basis.*

We currently meet at Schaumburg's Egg Harbor Café restaurant. Our weekly breakfast meal format at this location is that club members individually order food & beverage according to their preference from the restaurant's menu, with Egg Harbor providing individual meal checks. Each of us individually pays the restaurant directly for breakfast prior to departure.

Participation in the club's other extracurricular and fundraising activities are additional, as are voluntary contributions to the club's weekly Fun & Frolic activity that helps defray the cost of club operations.

Rotary seeks to represent a cross section of the local business and professional community. As a part of corporate social responsibility programs employers often times encourage and support employee participation in local community service organizations such as Rotary. ***Talk to your employer about their possible financial support of the costs associated with your Rotary Club membership.***

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

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

In recent years, our projects have included:

- Providing new winter coats to local at-risk children from low income families
- Hosting an annual "Feed My Starving Children" meal packing event which sends pre-packaged meals to hungry children around the world
- Passing the hat monthly for monetary donations that benefit the Schaumburg Twp. food pantry
- Sponsoring the Interact Club at Robert Frost Jr. High School
- Supporting our community vocational scholarship program
- Annually providing community grants to local humanitarian service agencies that provide essential services
- 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. How do I apply for membership?

[Click here to complete our online membership application.](#) After receiving your application, club members will be given a "ten-day notice" to comment on the application, after which time our Board of Directors will vote on accepting the application. A representative of our membership committee or your sponsor will contact you notifying you that your application has been approved, and invite you to your first "official" meeting, at which time you will be formally inducted into the club.