

Prospective Member Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Rotary?

A. According to the Strategic Plan of Rotary International, Rotary is a worldwide network of inspired individuals who translate their passions into relevant social causes to change lives in communities. There are 34,000 Rotary Clubs throughout the world. Clubs meet weekly for fellowship and 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*, and Rotarians pursue Five Areas of Service: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service and Next Generations. 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 bring their energy and ideas for service and make them happen.

Q. Who can join the Rotary Club of Winnetka-Northfield?

A. Membership is open to service minded individuals who live or work in the Winnetka-Northfield 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?

A. New members are expected to regularly attend our weekly meetings and to find ways to participate in the club's activities. However, there is no strict attendance requirement, and we understand that we all have very busy schedules and many demands on our time. New members may get involved by suggesting great speakers for our weekly meetings, by helping with club administration and PR, by serving on our membership committee, serving on planning committees for our major projects, by participating in our occasional hands-on service opportunities 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.

Q. Is weekly attendance mandatory?

A. 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 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?

A. Members are billed \$250 every three months, \$100 for dues and \$150 for meals. Members are also expected to financially support the club's and Rotary International's charitable works, as their circumstances permit. Our club has a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation (the Winnetka Northfield Rotary Charitable Foundation- WNRCF), as does Rotary International (The Rotary Foundation- TRF). All Rotarians are expected to make an annual contribution to TRF; we call this *Every Rotarian Every Year*, in support of TRF's humanitarian and educational programs (a \$100 donation is suggested, but more or less is acceptable). We also expect our members will financially support the service and charitable projects of WNRCF.

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

A. Our service projects change over time, as new members bring new ideas to the club. In recent years, our projects have included:

- Manning a Brat & Hot Dog stand during the Winnetka Sidewalk Sale
- Manning a beer truck at the Winnetka Fall Fest
- Winnetka beach clean-ups
- Conducting food drives for the local food pantries
- Staging a holiday artisan fair benefiting WNRCF
- Conducting annual fundraising events/dinners to support WNRCF
- Providing new winter coats to Chicago area children from low income families
- Producing a large one-day "Kids Against Hunger" food packing event which sends 100,000 meals to starving children in Nicaragua and local food pantries
- Annually proving grants to local, regional and international charities that are sponsored by our members
- Supporting a Bolivian Rotary Club's prosthetics clinic through a TRF "Matching Grant"
- Supporting Rotary International's campaign to eradicate polio from the world

New members are encouraged to bring new ideas for service projects to the club.

Q. How do I apply for membership?

A. Our membership application can be found on our website by [clicking here](#). After receiving your application, club members will be given a "seven day notice" to comment on the application, after which time our Board of Directors will vote on accepting the application. A member of our membership committee or your sponsor will contact you notifying you your application have been approved, and inviting you to your first "official" meeting, at which time you will be inducted into the club.