



BECOMING A MEMBER

Organized in 1924, the Rotary Club of Los Gatos is the community's most active and well-known service organization. Members of the Rotary Club of Los Gatos annually volunteer thousands of hours of community and international service. Hundreds of business and community leaders have shared the fun and fellowship of being a member of the Rotary Club of Los Gatos, while upholding the ideals of humanitarian service, high ethical standards, and promotion of goodwill. The Rotary Club of Los Gatos seeks members who exemplify the Rotary ideal of "service above self" with a record of leadership and service to the community.

Membership Admission and Orientation

Membership in the Rotary Club of Los Gatos is by invitation. A prospective member is invited to attend two lunch meetings and one other club event (e.g., First Thursday happy hour, service project, Annual Club Barbecue, Family Barbecue, Bocce Blast, Crab Fest). A Club member Sponsor is identified for each prospective member who meets with the prospect to assist in the completion of a membership application and provides information regarding club opportunities and responsibilities, including a general overview of Rotary International, club activities and events, club organization and committees, club attendance and participation opportunities, and club financial obligations.

The Sponsor contacts the prospective member's references and forwards the prospective member's completed application to the Membership Committee Chair. The Membership Committee Chair posts the prospective member's application with recommended classification to the club membership, and the Membership Committee reviews the prospective member's application, confirms recommended classification, and recommends action on the application for membership to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors reviews the prospective member's application, confirms recommended classification, and approves the applicant for membership in the Rotary Club of Los Gatos.

Upon approval by the Board, the Sponsor and the Membership Committee Chair meet with the prospective member to inform him/her of their status, to answer any additional questions about the Rotary Club of Los Gatos, to provide the credit card authorization form, to provide information about the Rotary Foundation initial year contribution, to provide information about the youth protection awareness certification process, and to identify the date for formal induction to the club. The date for formal induction to the club is confirmed when the newly approved member has submitted the completed credit card authorization form and has completed the youth protection awareness certification process.

The Sponsor and the Membership Committee Chair meet with the new member to review and initiate the new member orientation process. The Sponsor assists the new member in identifying

two club committees, in addition to the Welcome Committee, on which the new member wishes to serve in their first year. The Sponsor assists the new member in completing the following orientation (red badge) activities.

- Attending a quarterly new member information meeting
- Participating in a Los Gatos Rotary social event or service project
- Attending a Los Gatos Rotary Board of Directors monthly meeting
- Attending a Rotary district event or another Rotary club meeting
- Presenting a biographical sketch at a weekly lunch meeting

The President and the Sponsor acknowledge completion of all orientation activities by the new member and present him/her with their blue badge at a luncheon meeting.

Club Attendance and Participation Opportunities

The Rotary Club of Los Gatos has its weekly meeting at lunch at the Los Gatos Lodge. New members should strive for regular attendance at the weekly meeting with a general minimum of 50% attendance expected of all members. The Club offers a variety of service and social activities for its members with individuals choosing activities that offer opportunities for meaningful engagement for them. Members have an opportunity to participate in monthly hands-on local community service projects as well as periodic international service projects. On the first Thursday of each month the Club has a no-host happy hour which is a great opportunity for members to interact with each other as well as spouses and guests in an informal setting at a local restaurant or the home of a member. The Club also holds a Rotary ski challenge in February, a family barbecue in May, a fun-filled debunking dinner celebrating the transition of the Club leadership in June, a club barbecue in the fall, and a holiday President's brunch in December.

Financial Obligations

The basic cost of membership in the Rotary Club of Los Gatos includes a \$200 initiation fee (which includes a \$100 initial year contribution to the Rotary Foundation), monthly dues, and lunch at the weekly meeting. In addition, members have expenses associated with the periodic social events as well as supporting the fundraising events sponsored by the Club.

Fundraising Events and Philanthropy

The Rotary Club of Los Gatos has a long tradition of generosity in supporting local and international charitable projects. The Club sponsors three major fundraising events annually: a Rotary Great Race from Saratoga to Los Gatos, a Crab Fest and Auction, and a Bocce Blast. Proceeds from the events are used by the Club's charitable foundations to support scholarships to graduating seniors in local high schools, grants to local service organizations, and international projects. All members are generally expected to participate in the Club's three major fundraising events.

The Rotary Foundation provides humanitarian and educational grants to promote peace and goodwill that save lives and improve conditions throughout the world. Since 1947 the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.3 billion in grants from the voluntary contributions of Rotarians and friends of Rotary. One of the most notable programs of the Foundation is Polio Plus a joint effort of Rotary, the Gates Foundation, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and local health organizations to reduce the incidence of polio throughout the world. The Los Gatos Club has also set a goal of all members making an annual contribution to the Rotary Foundation as our commitment to the Every Rotarian Every Year initiative.

Join Community Leaders

More information about the Rotary Club of Los Gatos is available at www.logatosrotary.org. If you would like to explore membership further, please click the Contact tab on the website and indicate your interest so that we can invite you to an upcoming Los Gatos Rotary meeting or event.