

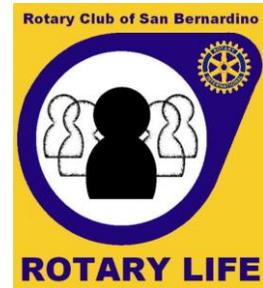
April 7, 2010

Rotary Club of San Bernardino, District 5330

www.RotarySB.org

BACKGROUND

San Bernardino Rotary Life Scholars is a leadership-development program for high school students provided by the Rotary Club of San Bernardino. The program provides vocational exploration and teaches the application of Rotary's concepts of service and ethical standards. It starts with students as they enter their first year and ends in their senior year with a college scholarship upon graduation.



A new freshman class is formed each year consisting of 14 students who stay together as a unit throughout high school. The selection of students involves a written application and an oral interview judged by a panel of experienced club members. The judging criteria are based upon the demonstrated leadership qualities presented by the students and upon the applicant's potential to benefit from the leadership training provided in the program.

There are four concurrent classes, one at each high school grade level. Ten to twelve Rotarians from San Bernardino Rotary act as advisors (2 or 3 per class). They are mentors and serve as role models for the scholars in each class. Three or more additional club members comprise the Rotary Life Committee, which administers the program together with the advisors.

Graduating seniors receive a scholarship of up to \$2,000 depending upon their record of participation during the program. While there is a small annual financial commitment from each scholar, the San Bernardino Rotary Club is responsible for most of the cost. An endowment fund has been built over the years to help secure the future of the program.

The newly formed freshman class meets twice a month and the Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes meet once a month. The program operates under a defined curriculum contained in a set of manuals:

- **FRESHMEN: FOUNDATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP** (Every Rotarian an Example to Youth). The focus is on speakers who are role models, learning organizational skills and learning about Rotary (4-Way Test, etc). They learn how to find and use each other's strengths, how to depend on each other as resources, how to select their own leadership and how to run meetings using Robert's Rules of Order.
- **SOPHOMORES: UNDERSTANDING LEADERSHIP** (Living a Rotary Life of Concern for Others and Personal Fitness). The focus continues to be on leadership development, more knowledge about Rotary (Interact, International Service, etc.) and physical fitness. The sophomore class is also responsible for designing and executing the annual all-class Rotary Life Community Service project.

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- **JUNIORS: APPLYING LEADERSHIP** (Knowing When to Lead and When to Follow). The class focus is on carrying out the annual Rotary Life Ideas Conference. The class also starts shadowing visits with business, professional and community leaders. Late in their year, the junior class begins the planning for the all-class Fall Retreat.
- **SENIORS: LIVING LEADERSHIP** (Not a Goal – It is Your Life and its Work). The senior class first organizes and carries out the Rotary Life Fall Retreat. The class continues with the shadowing visits and other Rotary Life activities as the members complete their college admission applications and prepare to graduate. It also invites and presents a visit by the District Governor for all Rotary Life scholars. Finally, the class creates and produces its own Graduation Banquet.

One of the important experiences each year is the all-class Fall Retreat at a mountain camp. It focuses on team building—both within and between classes. It also deepens the understanding of the new freshman class to the scope and potential of the program.

In addition to the activities of Rotary Life program, itself, scholars are also encouraged to participate in RYLA, in our club's annual music competition and in our 4-Way Test speech contest adding to their Rotary experiences.

The Rotary Life program was conceived and developed in the 1970's by PDG Robert (Bob) Henley, who also founded the Junior University summer program in San Bernardino, and Rotarian Charles (Chuck) Terrell who was Superintendent of Schools for the San Bernardino Unified School District at the time. The first class was formed in 1978 and graduated in 1982.

Graduates include:

- Tim Prince, Class of 1983, is a past president of the Rotary Club of San Bernardino.
- Phil Savage IV, Class of 1985, is a past president of the Riverside Sunrise Rotary Club.
- Carrie Gilbreth, Class of 1993, is a class advisor for Rotary Life.
- Jeremy Schrock, Class of 1997, is the current secretary of San Bernardino Rotary and also a class advisor for Rotary Life.
- Elizabeth Fredericks, Class of 2003, is an Ambassadorial Scholar from District 5330 (2009-10).

Graduates of this program have attended major universities all across the country. Many of them have become Rotarians in the communities where they located after completing their education.