

Revised: May 5, 2017

## Purpose of Jarrell High School INTERACT Club



Jarrell High School Interact is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young people ages 12-18. Our club works directly with the Rotary Club of Georgetown – Sun City on this program. Interact gives young people an opportunity to participate in fun, meaningful service projects while developing leadership skills and meeting new friends. Through service activities, Interact members learn the importance of developing leadership skills and personal integrity, demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others, and advancing international understanding and goodwill.

The goals of Interact are:

- To recognize and develop constructive leadership and personal integrity.
- To encourage and practice thoughtfulness of and helpfulness to others.
- To create an awareness of the importance of home and family.
- To build respect for the rights of others based on recognition of the worth of each individual.
- To emphasize acceptance of individual responsibility as the basis of personal success, community improvement, and group achievement.
- To recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations as opportunities to serve society.
- To provide opportunities for gaining increased knowledge and understanding of community, national, and world affairs.
- To open avenues of personal and group action leading to the advancement of international understanding and goodwill.

What is Interact? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXhuREFUqMA>

### ***What is Rotary?***

Rotary is a global network of 35,000+ clubs comprised of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers that come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad. It is the oldest and largest service organization in the world. The motto of Rotary is “Service Above Self.”

The main causes for Rotary are to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies

Some sustainable projects Rotary is involved in around the world: Ending Homelessness, Clean Water, Education, Recycling, Peace, Ending Hunger, Global Grants, Ending Poverty, Disaster Relief, Health, Children at Risk, Safe Blood, Disease Prevention, Youth Mentoring, Home Safety, Character Education, Literacy & Numeracy, Ethics, Helping the Elderly and Protecting the Environment.

### ***How does the Rotary Club of Georgetown-Sun City factor in?***

This local club supports and sponsors the Jarrell High School INTERACT Club. It is important to note that the INTERACT Club is self-governing and self-supporting. Rotary will be there to help offer suggestions and assistance with choosing and implementing service projects. The best service projects are ones that are sustainable over a period of time. The Sun City Rotary also can also provide things, such as, student mentoring, scholarships, leadership development, career guidance and more. All of these have to first be approved by the school administration.

### ***What are some of the causes that the Rotary Club of Georgetown-Sun City supports?***

They financially support *EarlyAct FirstKnight*® in the Jarrell elementary & intermediate schools and this is Character Education to help develop productive citizens when they become adults. Other programs supported are *Breakfast with Santa*, *Assistance League*, *The Georgetown Project*, *The Locker* in Georgetown & Jarrell, *RYLA* (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), *Jarrell United Methodist Church* and their food pantry, *R.O.C.K.*, *Rotary Literacy Grants* to the Jarrell, Florence & Liberty Hill ISD’s and more.

**Photo: First INTERACT Club established in Melbourne, Florida in 1962**



There are currently 19,200 INTERACT Clubs around the world with 442,000 members.

In Rotary District 5870 there are 44 INTERACT Clubs including Jarrell.

***Once we graduate from Jarrell High School how do we keep getting involved in service projects?***

The hope of Rotary is that high school graduates will continue to seek out opportunities to provide service to those in need. Many colleges offer ROTARACT Clubs that are also sponsored by Rotary. These are continuations and extensions of what Interact Club members were exposed to, but often times, they also include an International component.

## **INTERACT Club Officers**

### As an Interact Club Officer:

You are a role model.

Will develop leadership skills & personal integrity in yourself and in others.

Demonstrate helpfulness & respect.

Understand the value of hard work and individual responsibility.

Advance friendship, global peace and good will.

Promote the ideals of the “4-Way Test” and “Service Above Self”.

Have fun as a member & leader.

***How do we get the INTERACT Club going for the 2017-18 school year? What do we do? How do we get others involved?***

First, a Faculty Advisor is needed, and Ms. Jane Wrinkle has provided excellent guidance to the club in the past.

Here are some of the Sun City Rotary’s recommendations:

1. Get your INTERACT club officers elected and in place.
2. It is important to have students sign up for the club, because you will need their help to achieve some of the service projects you choose during the school year. Make your Rotary Club contact aware of the total number of students signed up.
3. Setup a meeting schedule for the entire school year for the INTERACT officers. If you want a Rotary representative to be at any of them you can provide your contact with those dates and times.
4. Setup a meeting schedule for the entire school year for the entire INTERACT club. You will probably need about 2-4 meetings that will revolve around the service projects you choose. It is suggested that a joint Rotary/Interact club meeting be held in the first half of the year where Interact can report on the service projects that you’ve done or that you’re going to do. It is a great way to “interact” with some Rotary Club members that have lived “Service Above Self” for 40+ years.

5. It is important for the club president to provide an agenda prior to each officer and club assembly.
6. It is recommended that each meeting begin with all the members reciting the Rotary Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do.
  - I. Is it the truth?
  - II. Is it fair to all concerned?
  - III. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
  - IV. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
7. It is recommended that INTERACT setup at least one service project during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> halves of the year.
8. Ask the INTERACT club members for ideas for service projects or fundraisers. One thing fundraisers offer to the club is the ability to acquire funds to use on club business, such as, club t-shirts, pins, supplies and recognition awards.
9. Make it fun!

Some ideas to consider for INTERACT projects for the 2017-18 school year:

1. Spend a day volunteering at *Community First! Village*. This is a community that was begun by Mobile Loaves & Fishes in Austin. They are transforming homeless people in Austin into being productive citizens living in their own supportive community. You can go to their website <http://mlf.org/community-first/> and be certain to watch the video on that site. The village is located just east of Austin. Any type of service project there would be sustainable since it's not just a one-time event.
2. *Habitat for Humanity* of Williamson County does wonderful things by creating and sustaining home ownership opportunities for selected families. Their website is <http://www.williamsonhabitat.org>. This organization would welcome a day of volunteering by Jarrell INTERACT club members.
3. *Jarrell United Methodist Church* continues to run the food pantry for those that would go without food in the community. Another food drive, fundraiser or volunteering time could be considered.
4. Work with the City of Jarrell to *Plant Trees* that will help in improving air quality and the overall environment.