



TWO RIVERS HIGH SCHOOL  
**PEACE POLE PROJECT**  
Creating Space to Explore Peace

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The Rotary Club of Two Rivers received a Rotary district grant to fund a peace pole project to promote peace, compassion, and understanding in the Two Rivers community.

**About Rotary International:**

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, our communities, and ourselves.

**What Rotary does:**

Rotary members believe we are responsible for taking action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 46,000+ clubs work together to:

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

**Project Background:**

Two Rivers Rotarians recognized the need to create a peaceful, reflective space on the Two Rivers High School campus. After tragic events involving high school students and the stresses of growing up in an increasingly complex society, we created the Two Rivers Peace Pole Project. We believe there is a need for a quiet place to reflect on global and personal issues, remember those who have suffered or died, celebrate and give meaning to peace, and initiate conversations about peace.

## **The purpose of this project is to create a space to:**

- Explore peace, individually or in groups.
- Offer reconciliation.
- Remember those who have suffered or died through violence.
- Celebrate those who have given meaning to peacemaking.
- Build goodwill by elevating peace within the community.
- Gather to discuss what they can do to facilitate healing in the world.

## **What is a Peace Pole?**

A **Peace pole** is a monument that displays the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in the language of the country where it is placed and usually three additional translations. The Peace Pole is in English, Czech, Spanish, Hmong, and braille. The idea of peace poles was first envisioned by Masahisa Goi in 1955 in Japan. Today, The World Peace Prayer Society, and other groups and individuals promote the peace pole project. There are now over 250,000 Peace Poles in every country in the world dedicated as monuments to peace.

"Planting" a Peace Pole brings people together to inspire, awaken and uplift the world's human consciousness. Peace Poles are the most prominent international symbol and monument to peace. They remind us to think, speak and act in peace and harmony, and stand as a silent visual for peace to prevail on earth.

Peace poles are in such notable locations as the north magnetic pole, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, the site of the Egyptian pyramids in Giza, and the Aiki Shrine in Iwamo, Japan. Peace poles are typically installed at high-profile public gathering places, such as community parks or near the entrances of churches or schools.

## **The benefit to the community:**

The project's beneficiaries include Two Rivers High School students, administrators, teachers, support staff, and the Two Rivers area community members at large. We feel that initiating a larger conversation about peace, compassion, and understanding will bring the community together and strengthen the resolve to create a better place to live.

## **Description of the project:**

Rotary Club of Two Rivers is constructing a space on the exterior grounds of Two Rivers High School where students and other community members can reflect on personal tragedies or other issues of concern.

The project consists of a 16 x16 foot concrete pad, a center stone planter with plantings, and a six-foot peace pole mounted in the center. Three benches are centered on the perimeter of the concrete slab on three sides of the space. The location is centered on the exterior grass on the east side (rear) of the high school.

**Partners:**

- Two Rivers High School

**Special thanks to Adam Rorher of Two Rivers High School.**

We are also thankful for donations of goods and services from:

- Green Acres Landscaping
- HMF Innovations
- The City of Two Rivers Public Works

