



Dear Prospective Rotarian,

Thank you for your interest in becoming part of the Rotary family! While our club is right here in River Falls, Rotary's global reach gives you a vast venue through which to share your time, talents, knowledge and wealth. You'll also make some of the best friends you've ever had!

Rotary's membership, both locally and around the globe, is made up of business and community leaders committed to making a difference. Rotarians believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 35,000+ clubs work together to:

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

If this sounds like the type of vision you'd like to be part of, we hope you will consider becoming a member of our club.

Our meetings are Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m., the first and third weeks of the month and at 12 noon on the second and fourth Tuesday, all at Ezekiel Lutheran Church in River Falls. Our weekly meetings include a meal, fellowship and informative presentations. While "Service Above Self" is the Rotary motto, we never forget lively and fun camaraderie! You can also learn more at [www.rfrotary.org](http://www.rfrotary.org).

Our club mission statement is "Enhancing opportunities for youth, creating a better world for all." This drives many of our service projects, which tend to be focused on youth. Here in River Falls, Rotarians are reading weekly at the four elementary schools -- Greenwood, Montessori, Rocky Branch and Westside, supporting international experiences and funding annual scholarships for River Falls High School graduates. These are just a few examples of the opportunities you'll have beyond our Tuesday morning meetings.

Joining Rotary isn't a commitment to take lightly, and it isn't for everyone. We welcome you to join us as a guest for a few meetings until you get a feel for what we do. Talk with our members; join us for one of our service projects; browse our club, district or the Rotary International website. We hope this will help you determine if Rotary fits your needs and expectations.

Thank you again for your interest in Rotary. We hope you will take some time to get to know us better. If you have any questions or want to hear more, just let me know!

Sincerely,

*Linda Yde*

Linda Yde, President, 2023-2024  
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# Rotary



## ROTARY CLUB OF RIVER FALLS Rotary at a Glance

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Rotary [www.myrotary.org](http://www.myrotary.org) brings together a global network of volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to tackle the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members from more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

### Membership Snapshot

**Who:** Rotary brings together the kind of people who step forward to take on important issues for local communities worldwide. Rotary members hail from a range of professional backgrounds; doctors, artists, small business owners and executives all call themselves Rotarians. Rotary connects these unique perspectives, and helps leverage its members' expertise to improve lives everywhere.

**Where:** From Haiti and Greenland to Nigeria and Singapore, Rotary unites a truly diverse set of leaders from across the world. Currently, the largest number of clubs comes from the United States, India, Japan and Brazil. The fastest growing Rotary regions include Southeast Asia and Africa.

**What:** Rotarians contribute their time, energy and passion to sustainable, long-term projects in local communities across the globe. Projects focus on important issues like peace and conflict resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy and economic and community development.

**The Rotary Foundation:** The Rotary Foundation transforms donations from Rotarians and other friends of Rotary into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. Our 35,000 clubs carry out sustainable service projects that support our six causes. With donations like yours, we've wiped out 99.9 percent of all polio cases. Your donation also trains future peacemakers, supports clean water, and strengthens local economies. During the past 100 years, the Foundation has spent \$3 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects. More than 90 percent of donations go directly to supporting our service projects around the world. <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation>

**Polio Eradication:** Rotary is close to eliminating the second human disease in history after smallpox, with a 99.9 percent reduction in polio cases worldwide since 1985, when Rotary launched its Polio Plus program. In 1988, Rotary spearheaded the creation of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Polio eradication remains a top Rotary priority. To date, through their gifts to The Rotary Foundation, Rotarians have contributed more than \$1.5 billion and countless volunteer hours to help immunize more than two billion children against polio in 122 countries. As further evidence of how Rotary leverages Foundation donations, Rotary set a goal of raising \$35 million per year through 2018 for polio eradication in order to benefit from a 2 to 1 match by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. <https://www.endpolio.org/>



## **ROTARY CLUB OF RIVER FALLS Expectations and Opportunities**

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### **Expectations of Members**

- Present an Introductory Talk upon joining
- Attend weekly meetings
- Participate in club projects and fundraising activities
- Represent and promote Rotary in the community
- Meeting set-up, take-down and devotions/reflections to open meetings.
- Consider attending District 5960 trainings, conferences and events

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- Read with a student at one of the four elementary public schools (weekly)
- Be a host family for a foreign exchange student (2 1/2 months)
- Help with the highway cleanup (Fall and Spring)
- Help with maintaining Veterans' Park (Fall and Spring)
- Purchase a gift for the Sharing Families holiday program (December)
- Donate cash for the Holiday Backpack Program (November)
- Work at Relay for Life spaghetti dinner (Spring)
- Serve as Club President (extensive training provided by District 5960)
- Chair a committee (Membership, Public Relations, Club Service, Foundation)
- Be an active member of a committee or subcommittee
- Serve as Sergeant at Arms, collecting each week's Happy Bucks
- Help with new local and international projects

### **Financial Obligations**

- Application Fee - \$100 per corporation (not designee) or individual membership
- Annual Dues (to be paid quarterly) as follows:
  - Traditional Individual Membership - \$500
  - Equal to or Under 35/Over 80 Membership - \$400
  - Corporate Membership annual dues per member
    - Initial Designee - \$500
    - Two Designees - \$1,000
    - Three Designees - \$1,200
    - Four Designees - \$1,600
    - Five Designees - \$2,000
- Financial support of annual fundraising event - Minimum of \$100
- Annual contribution to The Rotary Foundation – Sign up for periodic deduction on MyRotary.com or contribute by check or credit card
- Voluntary contributions at weekly meetings ("Happy Bucks")



## ROTARY CLUB OF RIVER FALLS Membership Types

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The goal of implementing a variety of membership categories is to positively impact membership trends and the club's overall effectiveness by increasing the club's ability to attract and retain a qualified and diverse population base within the community. These membership types are designed to provide value in the following areas:

### Increase

- Club membership recruitment and retention
- Support to the Rotary Foundation (program participation and fundraising)
- Successful service projects (community and international)

### Improve

- Leadership and engagement opportunities for members
- Participation in club activities
- Gender balance in the clubs' membership
- Overall diversity within the club's membership

### **Traditional Individual**

This membership type applies to standard individual representation.

### **Equal to or Under 35/Over 80**

This membership type is designed to attract younger members as well as to retain older members who are likely retired; the club benefits from having a more diversified age group.

### **Corporate**

This membership type is designed for a business organization that benefits from having multiple members involved in Rotary. Following an established approval process, a business may then appoint up to five (5) individuals to be its designees, one of whom must be a member of that entity's senior executive group; the others can be managerial individuals employed full time by the eligible corporation. Each individual designee is encouraged to attend club meetings, serve on committees, vote on club matters, serve as club officers, etc. that is consistent with the expectations of a traditional member. The entity may change designees via notification to the Club President, so long as one is a member of the eligible corporation's senior executive group.

# Rotary



## **ROTARY CLUB OF RIVER FALLS Introductory Talks**

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All new members are expected to give a talk at a weekly meeting to introduce themselves to the club. This is a great opportunity for members of the club get to know you better.

- Talk about where you came from, your educational background, places you have lived and worked, a bit about your spouse/significant other and children, what your hobbies and interests are, etc.
- Talk about your career path. What steps and/or missteps did you take that led you to your career? What are the qualifications or requirements for someone in your career? What things does this type of work regularly entail and what kinds of problems are typically encounter?
- Talk about where you are working and how long you have been in your current position. This is generally only time in the club where a brief commercial for your place of business is permitted.
- Talk about what brought you to River Falls and what you like about the area. Describe what attracted you to Rotary and what about our club most interests you.

Club leadership will work with you to schedule this for a time that works best for you. Please prepare for a presentation – including questions and answers – of 20 minutes. Slides with photos are encouraged.

This is intended to be a brief overview and introduction. If there is a major aspect of your life or career that is of broader interest but would require additional time, please let us know and we will schedule a different time for you to speak to the club on that topic.

# Rotary



## ROTARY CLUB OF RIVER FALLS Corporate Membership Application

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Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Designee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred address?  Home  Work

Preferred phone number?  Home  Work  Cell

### CORPORATE INFORMATION (Complete Supplemental Designee Application As Necessary)

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Executive Designee:** \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred address?  Home  Work

Preferred phone number?  Home  Work  Cell

### ABOUT ME

T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Classification (for Badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in joining? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in lunch with a club member to learn more about Rotary?  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date