

How to start an Interact Club

Interact Clubs can be school based or community based. School based are better because you have a annual supply of new members.

1. Identify a teacher, counsellor, or Principal who will champion the idea of Interact at the school. Hopefully they will also either agree to be the School Interact Advisor, or recommend a suitable candidate. Rotarians or young people attending the school who want to start an Interact Club will often help to identify the right champion.
2. Advertise an Interact interest meeting in the school. Ask school leadership to attend and to talk about it to their networks. Use Facebook as a means to get the message out. (Or ask the students to do that)!
3. At the interest meeting:
 - a. Talk about the Interact, Rotaract and Rotary Family.
 - b. Talk about Rotary Youth programs.
 - c. Talk about International and Community projects,
 - d. Talk about personal development, leadership development, learning communications skills, learning about project management,
 - e. Talk about the personal fulfillment of helping others less fortunate.
 - f. At the end of the meeting ask those who are interested to fill out an Interact Club Membership Form.
4. Invite those on the sign up sheet to bring a friend to a second meeting about 1 week later. Rotarian mentors can help set the stage at this meeting. It's important to remember that young people need to be interested and motivated to attend the meeting. They may be driven by their peer group, by food, by the excitement of working on a specific project. Whatever can be done to generate enthusiasm will help move things forward. Usually the students will be able to identify the best way(s) of motivating their peers.
5. Once a group of prospective Interactors has been assembled, you can begin to hold organizational meetings to plan the club's activities. Keep the enthusiasm level high by holding the meetings no more than two weeks apart, and be sure to keep a record of the names and phone numbers or e-mail addresses of those who attend so you can invite them to future meetings. Encourage them to invite friends.

When you have achieved a strong base of members, 15 plus, you will be ready to proceed with applying for official RI certification. The procedure for this is in the Interact Handbook with all required forms.

Attached are an [Interact Handbook](#), an [Interact Membership application form](#), and the [Interact Club Organization List](#). The Interact Club handbook has generic Interact Club Constitution and By Laws which should be completed and kept by the club secretary.

1. Order for the Interact Club a club banner, gavel and gong, officers and membership pins including the Interact Advisors pin for the School Interact Advisor.
2. Organize an Induction Ceremony for the Chartered members and Officers of the Club. This can be at the school at lunch time or at a club meeting or in a restaurant.
3. The sponsoring Rotary Club should budget about \$1,000 for the club items and the induction ceremony.
4. Invite the Interactors families to the Induction ceremony.

Interact Clubs can not be merged with an existing service clubs in the school. Interact Clubs have to be stand alone clubs.

If there is an existing service club in the school explain that by changing to an Interact Club you can do all the service club was doing plus more.

The Rotary Interact Advisor should attend all Interact Club meetings. It is important that there is Rotary Content at meetings.