



Refreshed Award Categories and Descriptions

This page summarizes the District 5580 Rotary Excellence Awards categories. Clubs can use it to identify the most appropriate category before preparing a nomination.

Award Year: Awards reflect achievements, projects, service, and contributions completed during the Rotary year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. Award recipients are presented and recognized the following October.

Recognition Format:

- Submission-based Rotary club awards are reviewed within two club size categories: Under 40 Members and Over 40 Members.
- Submission-based Rotary club awards recognize one winner in each size category.
- Rotaract awards recognize one recipient in each Rotaract category.
- Achievement-based Rotary club awards do not require a written submission; recipients are determined using reported District or Rotary International data.
- Distinguished Rotarian awards and Rotarian of the Year are district-wide individual awards, with one recipient selected for each category. The program does not use 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place awards; however, all nominations will be acknowledged during the awards presentation.

Submission-Based Rotary Club Awards

Award Category	Description
Community Service Excellence Award	Recognizes Rotary clubs that identify local needs and deliver meaningful service projects that strengthen quality of life in their communities. One winner is selected in each club size category.
Environmental Stewardship Champion	Recognizes Rotary clubs that protect, restore, conserve, or enhance the natural environment through service, education, advocacy, and collaboration. One winner is selected in each club size category.
International Service Excellence Award	Recognizes Rotary clubs that build goodwill and improve lives through international partnerships, projects, grants, humanitarian service, or global collaboration. One winner is selected in each club size category.
Fundraising Excellence Award	Recognizes Rotary club fundraising initiatives that create capacity for greater service and community impact. One winner is selected in each club size category.
Inter-Club Collaboration Excellence Award	Recognizes Rotary clubs that work together to achieve greater impact than any one club could accomplish alone. One winner is selected in each club size category.

Community Partnership Excellence Award	Recognizes Rotary club projects that demonstrate strong collaboration with municipalities, schools, businesses, service organizations, non-profits, Indigenous communities, or other community partners. One winner is selected in each club size category.
Public Image Excellence Award	Recognizes Rotary clubs that strengthen Rotary's public image through effective storytelling, communications, branding, media relations, social media, community visibility, and promotion of Rotary's impact. One winner is selected in each club size category.

Rotaract Submission-Based Awards

Award Category	Description
Rotaract Community Service Excellence Award	Recognizes a Rotaract club project that addresses a local community need through service, leadership, partnership, and measurable impact. One recipient is selected in this category.
Rotaract International Service Excellence Award	Recognizes a Rotaract club project that builds goodwill and improves lives through international service, global partnerships, humanitarian action, or cross-border collaboration. One recipient is selected in this category.

Achievement-Based Rotary Club Awards

These awards do not require a written submission. Recipients are determined using reported District or Rotary International data for the award year.

Award Category	Description
Membership Excellence Award: Largest Gain	Recognizes the Rotary club with the greatest net membership gain during the award year.
Membership Excellence Award: Largest Percentage Gain	Recognizes the Rotary club with the highest percentage membership growth during the award year.
TRF Excellence Award: Highest Annual Contribution	Recognizes the Rotary club with the highest annual contribution to The Rotary Foundation during the award year.

Individual Awards

Award Category	Description
Distinguished Rotarian – Club Service	Recognizes a Rotarian whose leadership, mentorship, fellowship, and participation strengthen their club. One district-wide recipient is selected.
Distinguished Rotarian – Community Service	Recognizes a Rotarian who demonstrates exceptional leadership and commitment through service that improves their community. One district-wide recipient is selected.
Distinguished Rotarian – Vocational Service	Recognizes a Rotarian who uses professional knowledge, ethical leadership, and vocational expertise to serve others and strengthen the community. One district-wide recipient is selected.

Distinguished Rotarian – International Service	Recognizes a Rotarian who demonstrates leadership in international service, humanitarian projects, global partnerships, or cross-border collaboration. One district-wide recipient is selected.
Distinguished Rotarian – Environmental Stewardship Champion	Recognizes a Rotarian whose leadership advances environmental sustainability through Rotary service. One district-wide recipient is selected.
Rotarian of the Year Award	Recognizes an individual who exemplifies Service Above Self through outstanding leadership, service, integrity, and commitment across multiple Avenues of Service. One district-wide recipient is selected.