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# Rotary Red Badge Program

The purpose of the Red Badge Program is to introduce a new Rotarian to Rotary International, District 5890, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rotary Club, and its members. The program gets its name from the Red ring around the outer edge of the Rotary badge given to each new member in a formal presentation ceremony at a club meeting. There are specific program requirements (checklist attached), and once the program requirements are completed, the Red Badge is replaced with a permanent Blue Badge. The process should take about 2-3 months. The Blue Badge is presented in a formal presentation ceremony at a club meeting.

Each new member is assigned a mentor, who is an experienced Rotarian. The mentor’s role is to help, support, be a source of information, and answer questions for the new Rotarian, as he/she successfully completes the steps of the Red Badge Program. The new Rotarian’s sponsor does not necessarily serve as the mentor but is kept in the loop of the Red Badge program requirements and progress. Also, the mentoring program is a way to become familiar with the honored club traditions and responsibilities of membership, as you begin your journey.

Once a new Rotarian gets involved in Rotary activities, they become more connected to the club, District 5890, and Rotary International. The Red Badge Program is an excellent program to assist a club with new member retention and involvement.

**Goals of Membership Committee**

1. Review application of proposed member.
2. Check references as necessary
3. Vote on proposed member for recommendation to the board
4. Make application experience more pleasant
5. Keep the approval process to 4-6 weeks
   1. Hold stand-up board meeting, if necessary
6. Develop Orientation Manual with complete information on Rotary and club requirements.
7. Schedule orientation shortly after the 7-day notice period to the club membership.
8. Deliver orientation (Rotary information) in a professional, orderly manner. Invite the proposing Rotarian to join the orientation. You are the face of Rotary at that point.
9. Assign mentor
   1. Coordinate with mentors
   2. Never let applicant fall through the cracks!!!
   3. Communications, communications, communications
   4. Keep materials current
10. Explain the Red Badge Program
11. Monitor applicant’s progress