

## WEEK 42 FOUNDATION MINUTE – MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

May is a time for celebrating the many Youth programs offered by Rotary – whether Rotaract Clubs, Interact Clubs, Early Act Clubs, Rotary Youth Exchange students, Short-term exchange students and the Global Grant and Peace Scholars supported by donations to Rotary International. Many clubs choose to honor those students in their community who exemplify Rotary’s motto of Service Above Self in their local community service efforts. This type of recognition can continue, including broader publicity throughout local communities.

We celebrate these student volunteers because they represent the future of Rotary. Each of these students, having experienced the positive effect they have on others, can continue their service – through participation in Rotary. They may continue their volunteer service with local organizations, alongside Rotarians, or through Rotaract or service clubs in their post-high school college communities. Some may join the Peace Corps after graduation, introducing them to global service and possible collaborations with Rotary clubs overseas.

The trick is to find a way to stay connected! Fortunately, this is getting easier – but involves asking for information before losing the local connection. Find out where your local Rotary Service Stars will be spending next year and stay in touch – connecting with their families is also a nice way to say “thanks for your service” and might maintain ties in the future.