

Rotary-Toastmasters Alliance FAQ

[About the alliance](#)

[How clubs can get involved](#)

[Communication and leadership development courses](#)

About the alliance

What is Toastmasters?

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. It has more than 358,000 members in 16,800 clubs in 143 countries.

As with Rotary, the club is the foundation of the Toastmasters experience. Its clubs offer a supportive and positive environment where members practice their skills and evaluate others to become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders. Most clubs are open to the community, have about 20 members, and meet each week or every two weeks for an hour or two.

Why are Rotary and Toastmasters working together?

Both Rotary and Toastmasters want to offer our members the best experience possible.

Collaborating with Toastmasters will provide Rotary and Rotaract members with even more opportunities for personal and professional development by improving their leadership and communication skills. This can help Rotary clubs meet their members' desire for new learning opportunities, become more attractive to prospective members, and become more diverse. It's another chance to establish fellowship and connections, build stronger clubs, and ultimately increase our impact.

Working with Rotary will allow Toastmasters members to apply the leadership and communications skills they've developed, connect with more people, take advantage of new speaking and learning opportunities, and make a difference in their communities.

Why work with an organization that is focused on improving public speaking?

For some, public speaking is thrilling; for others, it's terrifying. But being able to express yourself confidently in front of an audience is a learned skill that has immense benefits, personally and professionally, in the office, at the club, and even at home.

Telling our stories and articulating our values is part of personal growth and self-expression. Sharing our stories can inspire others, and build trust, community, and ultimately, peace.

How do Toastmasters benefit from an alliance with Rotary?

By connecting with a local Rotary or Rotaract club, Toastmasters members can find new speaking opportunities, a chance to make new connections, and use their skills to give back to their community.

Do Toastmasters clubs know about this alliance?

Toastmasters International has communicated with its members about the alliance, but it's possible you could try to connect with a Toastmasters club and find that it hasn't yet heard about it. If that happens,

you can share what you know (perhaps even sending them this FAQ), or direct them to the [Toastmasters site](#) for more information.

Can Rotarians also be members of Toastmasters?

You absolutely can be a member of both organizations.

What if we lose members to Toastmasters?

Although our organizations are similar in many ways, the experiences we offer members are distinct. Our members joined Rotary and Rotaract to make a difference and make connections. Toastmasters excels at building leadership and communication skills. Our organizations complement one another; we are not competitors.

If Rotary or Rotaract members want to join Toastmasters or Toastmasters members want to join Rotary or Rotaract, they are very welcome.

Is there a discount for Rotarians or Rotaractors who want to join Toastmasters, or for Toastmasters members who want to join Rotary or Rotaract?

Not at this time.

I don't want to participate in Toastmasters activities. I'm a Rotarian not a Toastmaster. I joined Rotary to make a difference not to become a public speaker.

Participation in activities related to the alliance is optional.

[How clubs can get involved](#)

How can my club collaborate with Toastmasters?

- [Visit a local Toastmasters club](#) or [learn more online](#)
- Ask a member of Toastmasters to speak at a club meeting or participate in a service activity
- Invite Toastmasters members to visit your club to learn more about Rotary
- Ask a Toastmasters club if you or one of your members could attend their meeting to learn more about them and their organization
- Invite a Toastmaster to attend your meeting and offer feedback that could enhance the meeting experience for your members, like improving the way speakers are introduced or how to seamlessly transition the meeting from one agenda topic to the next
- Ask a Toastmasters member to evaluate a speech you're giving
- Ask a Toastmasters club if you can give a speech at their Toastmasters meeting and receive an evaluation
- Establish a mentorship program between clubs that can be mutually beneficial for your members
- Get your club leaders together to discuss things you have in common, like attracting and engaging members, new member orientation, member satisfaction, or finding next year's leaders, and work together to develop a plan to achieve your goals.
- Hold an open house where members of both clubs can socialize and connect.

How do I connect with a Toastmasters club in my area?

Go to www.toastmasters.org/find-a-club to find a Toastmasters club near you.

Note: Toastmasters clubs are a lot alike Rotary clubs in that each club is autonomous and determines its own activities and priorities to reflect their members' interests. If a Toastmaster club doesn't have the capacity or interest in working together, there may be another club nearby that would be a better fit.

What if there isn't a Toastmasters club near me? How can my club get involved?

Toastmasters has more than 16,800 clubs in 143 countries, but there still may not be one near you. The good news is getting involved doesn't require the presence of a local Toastmasters club. The leadership and communication courses developed by Toastmasters International are available to Rotarians and Rotaractors on the Learning Center. You can take courses to improve your public speaking and leadership skills even if you don't have a Toastmasters club nearby. The courses will be rolled out in phases through January 2021. Find out what courses are available on Rotary.org/toastmasters.

You can also [learn](#) about Toastmasters and explore its [resources](#), [tips](#), and [podcasts](#) on public speaking.

What should I do if the Toastmasters club I reached out to doesn't know anything about the alliance?

While both Toastmasters International and Rotary International have communicated this alliance to its members, some clubs/members may still be unaware. If that is the case, help spread the word by sharing the information you have, including the [FAQs](#) and information on rotary.org/toastmasters.

Can you tell me more about the communication and leadership development courses?

As part of our alliance, Toastmasters International is developing leadership and communication courses for Rotary, which are available in the Learning Center. There will be eight robust online courses that incorporate independent study, assignments, feedback from peers, self-assessment, and reflection that develop leadership and communication skills. [Watch](#) this video to learn more.

Our members don't know what the alliance with Toastmasters is about. How has Rotary been communicating to its members?

We have shared information online at rotary.org/toastmasters, in The Rotarian magazine, on the Rotary Voices blog, through social media posts, in a press release, in newsletter articles, and in emails sent to club, district, and regional leaders. Additional communications will continue throughout 2020.

How will Toastmasters gain service opportunities?

If a Rotary or Rotaract club so chooses, it can invite local Toastmasters to participate in a service activity – the more people who can help give back to our communities the better! Plus, it's a great way to show a Toastmaster exactly how Rotarians and Rotaractors are people of action.

Can Rotary clubs or districts invite Toastmasters clubs or districts to participate in fundraisers?

If an individual Toastmasters member chooses to participate in a Rotary event, it is their personal choice. However, it is against Toastmasters policy to co-sponsor fundraising events. Because Toastmasters is an educational organization, its clubs are not allowed to fundraise for charitable causes, and their name cannot be used in connection with non-educational events.

Are Rotarians allowed to ask Toastmasters for donations?

No. If a Toastmaster attends a club meeting or service project, they are to be treated as guests and, therefore, should not be asked to make any type of contribution. If a Toastmasters member wants to contribute to a cause, they are welcome to, but should not feel pressured.

Can we use the co-branded logo for our clubs?

The co-branded logo is for Rotary International and Toastmasters International use only to indicate initiatives put forth jointly by both organizations. It is neither appropriate nor necessary for clubs or districts to use.

For promoting events that involve Toastmasters members, [follow these guidelines](#).

Communication and leadership development courses

When will the communication and leadership development courses be available?

Some of the courses are now available in English to Rotarians and Rotaractos. Courses in languages will be available starting in August 2020. Courses will be introduced through January 2021.

Where can I find the communication and leadership courses?

At rotary.org/learn.

Who has access to the courses?

The courses are available to Rotarians and Rotaractors. You must be a registered member of Rotary or Rotaract club (reported by club officers) and have a My Rotary account to access the courses.

Can I access the courses from my mobile phone?

These courses work best on a personal computer.

How will the communication and leadership development series developed by Toastmasters be different from the courses currently offered in the Rotary Learning Center?

The Toastmasters-developed communication and leadership development courses involve independent learning, self-assessments, assignments to help you put your new skills into practice, and peer evaluations to help you grow through collaboration.

[Watch](#) this video to learn more.

Are the courses being offered to Rotarians and Rotaractors different than what Toastmasters have access to as members?

The courses developed for Rotary are based on the Toastmasters' Pathways curriculum, but they are not the same. These courses are being created specifically for Rotary.

If a Rotarian chooses to join Toastmasters, does the work completed within the Rotary communication and leadership development courses transfer to Pathways?

No. If a Rotary member joins Toastmasters, they will choose a Toastmasters Pathway and take that curriculum, just like any other Toastmasters member.