



## **Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Overview**

### **Structure:**

The following district committees are open to YAC members:

- Membership Committee
- Youth Committee
- International Committee
- Community Service Committee
- Environmental Committee

At least one student representative will be appointed to each of these committees. This will deeply infuse every aspect of decision-making for these committees with a youth voice. By integrating student representatives into these committees, we can ensure that the perspectives and insights of young leaders are consistently included in key discussions and decisions. This approach not only fosters inclusivity but also provides invaluable opportunities for students to gain leadership experience, contribute to meaningful projects, and strengthen their connection to Rotary's mission.

Moreover, there are key leaders in the district who may be available to be paired with youth mentees.

These include:

- Community Service Advisor
- District Grants Chair
- District Literacy Chair
- District Environmental Chair
- District Learning Facilitator
- End Polio Now Fundraising Chair
- Friendship Exchange Chair
- Global Grants Chair
- RYLA Chair
- Vocational Scholarship Chair
- Rotary Means Business lead

Pairing with a youth mentee can help them learn about the position, what they do, and how their work helps Rotary. This mentorship program will serve as a powerful platform for intergenerational collaboration, fostering mutual learning and respect. Youth mentees will gain hands-on experience, build leadership skills, and develop a deeper understanding of Rotary's impact. Meanwhile, adult mentors will benefit from fresh perspectives and innovative ideas from their mentees, enriching their approach to District leadership. These partnerships will not only strengthen the district's efforts but also inspire young leaders to take on greater responsibilities within Rotary, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for our organization.

Once per month, all student leaders will meet as a group to apply what they have learned to create and implement innovative programming that connects youth across the district and around the world. This may include planning events for Interactors at the annual District conference; planning district-wide youth service projects; or advocating for internal changes to our Rotary District to improve how we engage with youth.

For the first year of the program, the focus will be on setting clear goals for the student leaders. This will help provide a clear picture of the program and reduce attrition. It will also help create a common sense of purpose among involved students. Students will be encouraged to carry out a District-wide Youth Service Day in April 2025 and then each year after in alignment with the district calendar. This will be a day where every Interact Club across the district does some kind of service project. Activities can vary and may include community clean-ups, educational workshops, or fundraising efforts. The general goal is to create a sense of unity among Interact clubs as they do acts of service on the same day.

Integrating youth representatives into district committees and pairing them with mentors in key leadership roles will empower the next generation of Rotary leaders while enriching the district's work with fresh perspectives and energy. Monthly student leader meetings with a clear, impactful goal—such as a District-wide Youth Service Day—will foster collaboration, skill-building, and a shared sense of purpose. By implementing this structure, D6440 will strengthen its commitment to youth engagement, create lasting bonds between generations, and ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for Rotary.

### **Proposed Recruitment:**

District 6440's YAC recruitment process is open to youth aged 14–26 who have been or are currently enrolled in the Rotary programs listed below:

- RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)
- Interact
- Rotaract
- Rotarian
- Peace Fellowship
- Rotary Community Corps
- Youth Exchanges
- Demonstrated involvement with a local Rotary Club
- Rotary Employee / Intern

*All involved must complete the district Youth Protection Policy*

Applicants are required to apply via this [Google Form](#) and follow the steps provided in the application instructions. The recruitment process will be guided by the applicant's commitment to their community, their passion for creating change, and their desire to be involved in District 6440 programs.

The mission of the YAC is to integrate current and former members of various Rotary programs, fostering a collaborative environment for the development of projects and initiatives aligned with the district Strategic Action Plan that have a positive impact on the communities we serve.

For applicants who are no longer involved in any Rotary programs but wish to stay engaged with Rotary, District 6440 offers an excellent opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who are also change-makers and driven to create impact. To be considered, applicants must specify the club (or other program) they participated in, along with the year and their role/position held.

### **Selection Process:**

1. Candidates must specify the committee or position they are applying for to be considered for selection. Please note that current and past positions held within clubs will be considered when assigning members to different committees.
2. Once candidates are selected, they must remain in the position for one year. After completing their term, they are welcome to apply for the same position, a different position, or a higher position. The selection committee will consider the candidate's performance during the selection process when making decisions.

3. The YAC does not discriminate based on ethnicity, race, or legal status in the United States. Anyone who meets the age requirements and has been involved in the programs listed above is welcome to apply and participate.
4. Applicants who are not accepted are encouraged to volunteer, participate in, and join the programs and initiatives led by the district YAC.

### **Incentives:**

Interact, Rotaract, and young Rotary members are busy with a variety of commitments, including school, work, extracurricular activities, and family obligations. Rotary may not be a priority for them, and taking on additional responsibilities may seem intimidating. Additionally, Interact members who plan on pursuing higher education face the additional challenge of choosing their extracurriculars to appeal to college admissions officers. The college admissions process often favors students who pursue unique extracurriculars or extracurriculars with tangible achievements. High schoolers may feel pressured to pursue certain activities and forgo others due to their perception.

To encourage participation on the Youth Council, we will develop and implement the creation of tangible, clearly defined incentives. These can vary depending on the goals and concerns of each YAC member. Our goal is to make sure that every YAC member feels that their contributions are valued, and that their benefit from YAC participation is equal to the benefit District 6440 receives from their involvement.

The incentives available to YAC members can include, but are not limited to:

- Describing participation in the YAC as the Rotary Youth Leadership Program. This will allow members to put this experience on a college application or resume, and clearly present it as a tangible achievement to universities and/or potential employers. This will encourage candidates who are concerned about their educational or professional opportunities to join the Youth Council.
- A willingness to write college letters of recommendation or provide references for YAC members. Letters of recommendation are an important part of the application process at many universities, and a letter from someone other than a teacher can provide admissions officers with another perspective on a student's accomplishments and personality. References can also be essential to young professionals just beginning their careers. Again, these will encourage candidates seeking higher education and career growth to join the YAC.
- Providing YAC members with mentorship and support. Since YAC members may have had no or limited experience serving on a committee or in board positions, we want to make it clear that the YAC is a learning experience, they are not expected to know everything right away, and Rotarians are there to provide advice and assistance as needed.
- Taking the views and recommendations of YAC members into account demonstrating recognition of the value of youth voices and support of youth ideas.
- Hosting an end-of-year celebration/recognition ceremony or similar event to honor the contributions that the YAC has made to District 6440. YAC members' hard work will be acknowledged and celebrated. Recognition could also include certificates / pins to honor their achievements. Ideally this will be held at the annual District Youth Conference and other suggested events.



## YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (YAC) APPLICATION

Please complete the questionnaire below and submit it no later than **March 1**. Feel free to attach any relevant attachments or additional pages and send to:

Christopher Joyce – District 6440 Youth Chair

Email: [trusty49@gmail.com](mailto:trusty49@gmail.com)

Mail: Christopher Joyce, 2015 Noyes Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201

### QUESTIONS

Please provide responses to the questions listed below. Feel free to attach any supporting documents to your application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in becoming a member of the Youth Advisory Council?

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What skills do you possess that will help you become a contributing member of the Youth Advisory Council?

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Have you held any prior leadership positions? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what are / were they?

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Have you attended RYLA? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No Are you currently a member of Interact or Rotaract ? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Please list your club and any positions you have held:

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Please add anything else that you feel is relevant to support your application to the Youth Advisory Council

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your interest in serving District 6440!**