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Message from your District Interact Committee

With the start of a new school year, let's have a quick refresher on what Interact is, and the amazing opportunities it provides for youth to get involved in local and global projects!



What is Interact?

Interact is a Rotary global volunteer service organization for youth ages 12-18. Interact Clubs are usually high school based and are led by the student members. Each Interact Club is sponsored by a local Rotary Club and Rotary International. A local Rotarian acts as a club mentor along with a teacher advisor.

The name **INTERACT** is derived from the words **INTER**national and **ACT**ion. Interact Clubs organize at least two service projects a year: One local project that benefits their school or community and an international project of their choosing. This can either be their own project, activities that complement an existing Rotary project or something that supports another international charity or project. The objective is to provide meaningful help and encourage international understanding and goodwill between people across the world. This is done in the spirit of Rotary's motto of **Service Above Self**.

What is the purpose of Interact?

The purpose of Interact is to provide opportunities for young people to work together in a worldwide fellowship dedicated to service to others, both locally and internationally. Interact club members have fun while carrying out service projects, developing new skills and learning more about the world and themselves.

Why should I join the Interact Club? (What's in it for me?)

- Earn meaningful volunteer hours

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- Develop your leadership, collaboration and team building skills
- Become a key participant in local and international volunteer projects
- Boost your college/university applications and resume
- Make valuable contacts for references and future career networking opportunities
- Be part of one of the most highly regarded global volunteer service organizations
- Learn from Rotary's mentoring and other personal development opportunities
- Make a real difference in the lives of others

Interested?

Keep in touch by reading our quarterly eNewsletters. There are many exciting projects to come, such as our yearly grant writing competition where youth will get the opportunity to learn how to write a professional grant and to give back to the community using the allocated funding. To learn more about Rotary International and Interact visit www.rotary.org

Update: Nelson Interact Club

By Christiana Lammers

After a great summer, Nelson Interact in Burlington has been able to meet again **in-person!** We are super excited to help our community in any way that we can, hopefully with more ease as restrictions are lifted. Throughout September and the beginning of October, we have been able to meet once a week during lunch, and it has been really fun to meet new people and introduce the Nelson community to Interact club. Our meetings usually consist of 25-40 students who are all looking for ways to make a difference and serve others as much as they can.

Our motto at Nelson Interact is "*service over self.*" This is something that we value very deeply and hope that by following it, we can better our community and also develop very positive characteristics and morals. Every week, the group meets and brings up or discusses topics that we can bring to light. We have recently talked about Polio awareness, Remembrance day and what we can do to educate those who do not know a lot about these topics. Interact also has themes for each month that we use to guide our project topics and ideas. Our theme for September was 'Indigenous Awareness'. October's theme is 'Disease Prevention and Treatment', November's theme is 'Mental Health', and our December theme is 'Different Cultures Around The World'.

We have been working on many initiatives to better both our Nelson and local community. Recently, we collaborated with the Bethany Residence on a Thanksgiving Activity that was displayed in one of the Nelson hallways. Members of the Bethany Residence wrote down on sticky notes something they are thankful for, and Nelson students put their own notes of thankfulness around the ones from Bethany. This gave the opportunity for the Nelson student body to not only remember what they are thankful for, but to also learn about an organization who is helping many people suffering from mental illnesses.



Another project was a 'Polio Awareness Bake Sale' on Friday, October 29. All of the proceeds will be going towards UNICEF. In addition, we also are hosting a Mental Health Session November 1st, lead by Dr. Resham Ejaz and Dr. Siraj Mithoowani. Later in the month, students will have the opportunity to participate in a Remembrance Day activity where paper poppies will be placed on a wreath made by a wonderful Interact member. Finally, on Remembrance day, members of Interact will be passing out poppies.

Attention ALL Rotarian!

By Desmond Jordan

SPONSOR AN INTERACT CLUB

Do you want to empower young people in your community to take action, become leaders, and gain a global perspective? Sponsor an Interact club! Whether they're carrying out a service project, organizing a Twitter chat, or planning a meeting, Interact club members develop skills that can last a lifetime.

DID YOU KNOW?

Interact is a club for youth ages 12-18 who want to connect with other young people in their community or school. Interact club members have fun while carrying out service projects and learning about the world. Interact clubs organize at least two service projects a year: one that benefits their community and one that encourages international understanding.

While Rotary clubs sponsor them, Interact clubs are largely self-sustaining, requiring little or no financial support from your club.

HOW DO I SPONSOR A CLUB?

Once your club has decided to sponsor an Interact club, form an Interact committee to organize and support the Interact club. Refer to the [Interact Handbook](#) for complete details.

Before starting the club:

- Determine the need for an Interact club in your community
- Identify a school or community partner
- Locate possible Interactors such as current and past participants of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and Rotary Youth Exchange
- Organize an informational meeting for potential members

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- Assign a Rotarian adviser who will attend board meetings of school-based clubs and all meetings of community-based clubs
- For school-based clubs, identify a faculty adviser who will serve as the liaison between the sponsor Rotary club and the school administration

CAN AN INTERACT CLUB HAVE MEMBERS FROM MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL?

Yes. A community-based Interact club can draw members from several schools as long as they are located in the sponsor Rotary club's district.

HOW CAN I JOIN OR START AN INTERACT CLUB?

If you're interested in Interact, contact your [local Rotary club](#) to find an Interact club in your area. Learn more about joining and starting an [Interact club](#).

Follow Interact on [Facebook](#) and visit Interact's [YouTube channel](#) to see what Interact clubs are doing around the world.

RESOURCES & REFERENCE

- [Interact Handbook](#)
- [Interact promotional card \(PDF\)](#)
- [Young Leaders in Action newsletter](#)
- [Youth Travel Excerpts Reference - Rotary Code of Policies](#)

VIDEOS

- Interact: Make a Difference ([France](#), [India](#), [USA](#))
- [Josh's Choice: Volunteer, Travel, or Lead](#)
- [Interact video contest winners](#)

TOOLS

- Find a Rotary club with [Club Finder](#)
- Check our [discussion groups](#)

ROTARY SUPPORT

- District Interact representative
- District Interact chair

Questions? Ask us at interact@rotary.org.