



Membership District 7090



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Launch Your Own Satellite!

RESOURCES TO HELP OUR CLUBS GROW AND PROSPER

By PDG Kevin Crosby, District Membership Director (featuring material provided by Rotary International)

What is a Satellite Rotary Club?

A satellite club is an extension of an existing Rotary club. The satellite club meets at a different time, and perhaps different location, than the sponsor club. The members of the satellite club are counted as members of the sponsor club and would be expected to participate in fund-raising and service projects of the sponsor club.

What's the benefit for the sponsor Rotary Club?

Forming a satellite club enables a Rotary club to involve a group of members who might be unable to attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the sponsor club, or a

group for whom the cost of meals might be a barrier to joining the sponsor club.

Perhaps there is a group of young professionals or local community of business owners who would be good Rotarians but simply can't attend the meetings of the sponsor club. Forming a satellite club is an excellent way to get these people involved in Rotary.

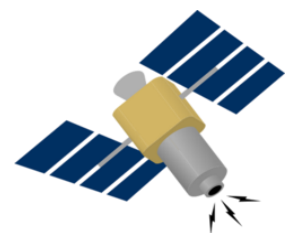
Starting a satellite club

New satellite clubs must have at least eight members at the time they form in order to satisfy the requirements of Article 13, Section 6(b) of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. There is no maximum number of members.



Can a weak club convert to a satellite club and retain its charter and history?

If the members of a weak Rotary club want to become a satellite club, they must first resign their charter. They would then be free to form a satellite club and become members of the sponsor club. However, satellite clubs are not intended to strengthen weak clubs. If a club needs extra guidance and support, a district governor may assign a stronger club or a special representative to mentor the weak club.



Can Rotaract clubs be converted into satellite clubs as a transition to becoming a full Rotary club?

Yes. Some or all of the members of a Rotaract club may form or join a satellite club.

How are satellite clubs named?

Satellite clubs have the same name as the sponsor club plus a qualifier that distinguishes it from the sponsor, for example:

Sponsor and satellite clubs meet at different times

Sponsor: Rotary Club of Eastern Hills

Satellite: Rotary Satellite Club of Eastern Hills Evening

Sponsor and satellite clubs have different meeting locations

Sponsor: Rotary Club of Buffalo Sunrise

Satellite: Rotary Satellite Club of Buffalo Sunrise West Side

Board & governance

Satellite clubs set up their own board and have their own officers.

However, instead of a president, a satellite club has a chair. If there are two boards, how are disagreements handled? The board of the sponsor club has the final authority when there are disagreements. Does the leadership of the satellite club have a

position on the sponsor club's board? This is not required, but is highly recommended.

Can a satellite club have separate bylaws? Yes. The satellite club determines its bylaws in collaboration with its sponsor club.

Who decides where and when the satellite club meets?

The satellite club determines its meeting place and time in consultation with its sponsor club. Does the satellite club meet together with the sponsor club? The satellite club should have a separate meeting, although it may meet jointly with the sponsor club from time to time.

Membership and dues

Are satellite club members Rotarians? Yes, they are members of the sponsor club.

Does the sponsor club need to approve new satellite club members? The sponsor and satellite clubs should work out a process for adding new satellite club members at the time the satellite is being formed. The sponsor club should also add that process to its bylaws. If a conflict arises with satellite club membership, the sponsor club has the final say. As members of the sponsor club, satellite club members are ultimately subject to the authority of the sponsor club's board.

Do satellite club members pay Rotary dues? Yes. Satellite club members are Rotarians and pay the same Rotary dues as the sponsor club's members.

Do satellite clubs receive a dues invoice? No. The satellite club members are included on the sponsor club's dues invoice.

If a satellite club is formed after 15 May or 15 November, are dues for the new members waived, as with a new club? No. Satellite clubs are not separate Rotary clubs. New satellite club members are included on the sponsor club's dues invoice regardless of when the satellite club was approved.

Can a satellite club have a separate dues structure? Yes. The satellite club determines its dues structure in collaboration with its sponsor club.

How long can a satellite club exist? Satellite clubs are intended as a temporary step on the way to becoming a full, independent Rotary club. However, there is no time limit on the life of a satellite club.

How does a satellite club apply to become a new, independent Rotary club? The satellite club works with the sponsor club and district governor to complete Rotary's new club application.

Questions or Comments? Contact PDG Kevin Crosby, District Membership Director, at kevin@d7090.org.

