

Catalog of Rotary District 5440 Club & Member Services



Make the most of what Rotary offers

“Rotarians are People of Action”



Updated July 22, 2026

Updated Annually by District 5440 Council of Past Governors

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Your Rotary District 5440**

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Section 1. Grants.

Grants are available to Rotary Clubs and Rotaract Clubs.

1.A. District Grants. We Rotarians are always looking for ways to leverage our projects. A District Grant does just that. Your club can receive a 2:1 match for your financial contribution to a local or international project up to a total of \$6,000, depending on your club's level of giving to The Rotary Foundation, from our District.

More information can be found at <https://rotary5440.org/page/district-amp-global-grants>. If you want to learn more about the District Grant program, you can e-mail the Rotary District Grants Committee district5440grants@gmail.com.

1.B. District Grants, District Scholarship Grants and Rotaract/Interact Grants. There are several additional grants well worth considering.

District Grants: Rotary and Rotaract Clubs wishing to apply for a District grant must be contributing \$50 or more per capita to The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund to be eligible for a \$3,500 grant

District Scholarship Grant: District Grants can be used for an undergraduate scholarship for a student who has demonstrated interest in one of Rotary's seven areas of focus or for RYLA scholarships. \$1,000 max including the 2:1 total.

Rotaract/Interact Grants: Rotaract and Interact Clubs can apply for a Rotaract/Interact grant limited to \$300 per grant. The District will match club funds 2 for 1 up to this limit.

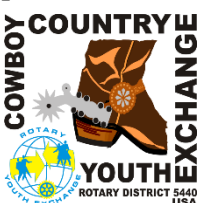
You can learn more about District Grants here: [District and Global Grants | District 5440 \(rotary5440.org\)](https://rotary5440.org/page/district-amp-global-grants)

1.C. Global Grants. A Global Grant takes the grant process to a whole new level. If you have an international project, an international partner Rotary club, and a project costing \$30,000 or more, you can apply for a Global Grant. The process is not complicated but does have more steps than a District Grant. More information can be found at <https://rotary5440.org/page/district-amp-global-grants>. Should you wish to learn more by communicating directly with a Global Grants Committee, please email the Rotary District Grants Committee at district5440grants@gmail.com.

Section 2. Youth Programs.

Your Rotary club can sponsor youth through a variety of life changing programs.

2.A. Youth Exchange. Your District has, for many years, offered yearlong and summer exchanges for interested students. With a yearlong exchange your club can sponsor and send a student to one of many qualified countries for a 9-12 month academic exchange. Your club would be responsible for sponsoring the outbound student and provide hosting for the inbound student at club member homes or qualified members of the community. For more information on this outstanding youth program please go to [Cowboy Country Youth Exchange Related Pages | District 5440 \(rotary5440.org\)](https://rotary5440.org/page/district-amp-global-grants). You can also contact John Sheltren, District



Chairman Cowboy Country Rotary Youth Exchange at jssheltren@icloud.com or by telephone at 530-412-2341.

For those students who cannot commit to a full year, the summer exchange program offers a family to family exchange opportunity to many qualified countries around the globe. Since the families do reciprocal hosting, your club would interview and sponsor the outbound student. Hosting of students by club members is not required. For more information on the Summer Youth Exchange Program please visit [Related Page | District 5440 \(rotary5440.org\)](#). For questions about the Short Term Exchange Program please contact: District5440.STEP@gmail.com

2.B. Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA). This weeklong leadership experience is offered to seventh grade students through Young RYLA and high school juniors and seniors through RYLA. For students with special needs, RYLA Plus provides a one day leadership experience in a specialized, accessible location. This year, our District will offer two Young RYLA sessions, one in June and one in July 2026. RYLA will offer a one week session in June 2026. RYLA and Young RYLA sessions are hosted at the YMCA of the Rockies just outside of Estes Park, Colorado. RYLA Plus will be a one day event offered in the Easter Seals' Rocky Mountain Village in Empire, CO in partnership with District 5450. If you wish to sponsor one of more students, your club would interview and pay tuition for your selected students. You can learn more about this life changing experience for middle and high school students at [Youth Programs in District 5440 | District 5440 \(rotary5440.org\)](#). For more information and application information please visit [Rocky Mountain RYLA \(rmryla.org\)](#). For additional information you may also contact our District RYLA Committee Chair Audrey Murphy, a member of the Scottsbluff/Gering club at amurphy@pvbank.com.

2.C. Interact. Our District has an active Interact program for students interested in community service. Rotary clubs can energize and inspire young leaders ages 12-18 through service and encourage them to become responsible global citizens by supporting Interact clubs. Would your Club be interested in sponsoring an Interact Club? You can also download the Interact Guide for Rotary Club Sponsors and Advisors here: <https://my.rotary.org/en/document/interact-guide-rotary-club-sponsors-and-advisers>



Section 3. Training

Your District offers a variety of training for all aspects of Rotary. District 5440's annual calendar includes both training sessions and unique events to enhance your Rotary experience. Training not only increases understanding of Rotary and its initiatives, but also develops leadership skills and fosters community impact. Our unique events include time to learn more about this wonderful organization and the opportunity to build lasting friendships with others who share the same heart for serving the world.

3.A. Presidents Elect Training Seminar (PETS). A Rotary club president has many responsibilities. PETS training, a three day comprehensive overview club operations and leadership, is offered each year prior to the start of your term as club president. Whether it is your first term as president or a second or third opportunity to lead your club, PETS will give you the tools and practices to better serve your club. You



can learn more about PETS and register your President Elect for the next PETS to be held on April 2-4, 2027 at [Home Page | High Country Rotary PETS \(highcountrypets.org\)](#).

3.B. District 5440 Summit (previously known as conference). Each year your District holds a District Summit. There is no better way to renew Rotary friendships, experience outstanding fellowship and receive useful training than the District Summit. The 2027 Rotary District 5440 Summit will take place from June 4-5, 2027 in Casper, Wyoming. The annual District Summit offers something for every Rotarian. For 2027 you can expect informative breakout sessions, a service project opportunity, great speakers, food, and fellowship. If you have not attended, please consider this annual gathering of our 56 Rotary & Rotaract Clubs. Registration & web page will be available closer to the event date.

3.C. District Assemblies. Your District offers two District Assemblies each year. Whether in person or virtual, these District Assemblies offer information on District opportunities, training for club officers, tasty food, and fellowship. The District Assemblies are held in the fall and spring at a central location or virtually. They typically last one day. You will receive an e-mail from your District Administrator, Kellie Kegerreis with an invitation to register. The next District Assembly will be held virtually on October 3, 2026 from 9-11:30 a.m. Watch for announcements and register on the District 5440 website at [Home Page | District 5440 \(rotary5440.org\)](#).

3.D. Rotary Learning Institute (RLI). RLI offers all Rotarians an opportunity to learn about the evolution of Rotary and its activities in the world. At RLI you will discover leadership strategies for your club, work, or other volunteer activities by participating in interactive discussion. Best of all, you can fulfill one of the key purposes of Rotary by networking with Rotarians from across the District.

If you have already attended, please personally invite a club member you believe would benefit from joining RLI. The overriding goal of this course is to create enthusiasm for Rotary by experiencing the world of Rotary outside of their own club. RLI also emphasizes the potential of Rotary service for the benefit of the world that can be furthered with excellent leadership in our clubs.

Graduates of RLI bring an enhanced background in Rotary when they serve in their club or represent Rotary in their community. Watch for announcements about forthcoming Rotary Learning Institute training opportunities. To schedule an RLI in your area contact our District RLI chair Waverly Stevens at wpstevens22@gmail.com or 256-441-1334.

3.E. Grants Training. If you have not yet applied for and received a grant, as described above in Section 1, you are missing an outstanding opportunity to fund local and international projects and award scholarships to selected students. Grants training will provide you with the essentials you need to apply for and make beneficial use of District and Global Grants. You can take this training online at [Grants Training | District 5440 \(rotary5440.org\)](#). You can also receive Grants training, when offered at the Spring District Assembly. Once you become aware of the leverage that a grant can provide your club, you will want to take advantage of the funds available.

Section 4. Education and Scholarships

4.A. Rotary Peace Fellowships. Each year, Rotary selects up to one hundred individuals from around the world to receive fully funded academic fellowships at one of our peace centers. These fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses.

In just over a decade, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than nine hundred fellows for careers in peace building. Many of them go on to serve as leaders in national governments, NGOs, the military, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and World Bank.

Two types of peace fellowships are available.

MASTER'S DEGREE offering master's degree fellowships at premier universities in fields related to peace and conflict prevention and resolution. Programs last 15 to 24 months and require a practical internship of two to three months during the academic break. Each year, Rotary International awards up to fifty master's degree fellowships at participating universities around the world.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE For experienced professionals working in peace-related fields who want to enhance their professional skills, Rotary offers a three-month program in peace and conflict prevention and resolution at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. This program incorporates two to three weeks of field study. Up to fifty certificates are awarded each year.

For more information including the application process please visit [District Peace Initiatives | District 5440 \(rotary5440.org\)](https://www.rotary5440.org)

Section 5. Club Support

There are a number of ways you can enhance the impact of your Rotary Club in your community. This section offers opportunities to develop a Rotaract Club, start a Satellite Club, plan for the longer term with Club Visioning, and take advantage of IT support to add a remote attendance option to your club meetings.

5.A. Rotaract. Through Rotaract clubs, young people ages eighteen and older develop leadership and professional skills, exchange ideas with community leaders, and have fun through service. Click here:



[Rotaract | District 5440 \(rotary5440.org\)](https://www.rotary5440.org) to find everything you need to know about creating a strong Rotaract club. Download the Rotaract Handbook to learn how to create or strengthen a Rotaract Club.

5.B. Satellite Clubs. A satellite club functions as a short-term, transitional step on the way to becoming a full, independent Rotary club. This allows interested persons to become Rotarians without meeting the requirement of having at least twenty persons to organize a separate Rotary club.

To start a Rotary satellite club you can download the Rotary International Guide to Satellite Clubs here [Guide to Satellite Clubs - My Rotary.](#)

5.C. Club Visioning. Visioning helps Rotary clubs imagine what they want their club to become and create a practical plan to get there. In this facilitated workshop, a cross-section of club members work together to identify core values, community impact goals, membership aspirations, and priorities for the coming years. By the end of the session, clubs walk away with an action plan and clear direction that can guide presidents, boards, and committees for years to come. For more information, please contact Visioning Chair Shurie Scheel at shuriescheel@gmail.com or 307-460-0392.

5.D. IT Support. Our District has expanded IT support in order to offer Rotary Clubs an option to better reach our members by using online meeting resources. The newly enhanced District Technology Committee is working to provide clubs with expanded IT options. For more information, please reach out to committee chair [Carl Dierschow](#).

5.E. Club Runner Support. Most of the clubs in our District use Club Runner to manage our club membership and communicate with club members. Our District is offering training and support to enhance your Club Runner experience and use of this tool. Our District Technology Committee has the expertise to assist you with your Club Runner questions. For more information, please reach out to committee chair [Carl Dierschow](#).

5.F. Emerging Rotary Leaders. Do you have one or more members of your club who would like to get involved in leading your club or become a part of a District Committee or our Big West Rotary Zone? Emerging Rotary Leaders is a program our District offers to our clubs to sponsor Rotarians to attend Zone Institutes. Each year the Zone Institutes conduct a training program as part of the Zone Institute meeting. This training exposes Rotarians selected by your club and District to training and leadership at the District level and above. Each year our District sponsors a select group of emerging leaders to attend this training by providing scholarships to attend the annual Zone Institute and ERL Training. You can learn more about ERL training by contacting any member of the District Executive Committee. Committee members can be found here: [Executive Committee | District 5440 \(rotary5440.org\)](#).

5.G. Public Image. Rotary is well known among members, but did you know that the general public has little knowledge Rotary? Our District has a Public Image Coordinator who can provide resources to help you better communicate the role of Rotary in your Community. You can read more about enhancing your Rotary Club Public Image here: [Public relations | My Rotary](#). For more information about Public Image initiatives in our District, please contact Kerrie Luginbill, a member of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins and our District 5440 Public Image Coordinator. You can reach Kerrie at rotarykerrie@gmail.com.

5.H. Rotary Zones 26 and 27 Expert Hub. Rotary and Rotaract members who have expertise in a variety of areas are ready to advise and assist clubs and districts with their Rotary efforts and projects. Areas of expertise include membership, public image, The Rotary Foundation, fundraising, youth service programs, and more. **Connect directly with a specialist on the Zone 26/27 Expert Hub Website at [ExpertHub™ – Rotary Zones 26 & 27 \(zone2627.org\)](http://zone2627.org).**

Section 6. Rotary International

Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to act on our world's most persistent issues. Our 46,000+ clubs work together to: Promote peace; Fight disease; Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; Save mothers and children; Support education; Grow local economies; and Protect the environment.

The Rotary mission: We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

The Rotary Vision: Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

There are many opportunities to be involved beyond your club and District in Rotary. Listed below are just three opportunities where many Rotarians in our District get involved. If you wish to broaden your experience with Rotary here are some excellent opportunities.

6.A. Friendship Exchanges. Imagine the adventure and fellowship in being part of a group of Rotarians who visit and are hosted by Rotarians across the globe. Friendship exchanges, which were not conducted during the COVID travel restrictions, are expected to resume in the near future. Friendship exchanges provide an opportunity to see how Rotarians in another country live and conduct their Rotary programs. Friendship exchanges have visited India, the United Kingdom, Brazil, and other countries in the past few years. Typically, a small group of Rotarians will travel together and be hosted in a Rotary member home. The Exchange participants will experience club meetings, club projects and District projects. They may even attend a District Conference. Opportunity will be given to become involved in your hosts District projects through the District and Global Grant process. A friendship exchange can be a life changing experience that will forever broaden your perspective as a Rotarian. Watch for the start of new Friendship Exchanges in the future.

6.B. Rotary Zone Institute. District 5440 is one of 30 districts that are members of the Big West Rotary Zone. Our Zone includes much of the western United States. Each year our Zone holds a Zone Institute. The Zone Institute week consists of three parts that include:

An Education week for our District Governor line including District Governors, District Governors Elect and District Governors Nominee. Education week involves training for several days prior to the Zone Institute for our DG line so that these leaders can more effectively govern their District.

Another aspect of the Zone Institute is the Emerging Rotary Leader Program. This training provides an opportunity for our District to send a limited number of Rotarians who wish to become more involved with Rotary at the Zone or RI level. There is one day of ERL training that precedes the Rotary Institute, which is attended by all.

A third aspect of the Zone Institute is the Institute program, held usually the last three days of the Zone Institute week. The Zone Institute program is both inspirational and educational. Our Zone brings together a group of outstanding speakers who provide inspirational messages to help us become more effective Rotarians. Zone Institutes are packed with training, fellowship, and inspiration. Once you attend a Zone institute, you will become more aware of the depth and breadth of Rotary.

The 2026 Big West Rotary Zone 26/27 Institute and Governor Education will be held in Albuquerque, NM from August 31-September 2, 2026. Education week is for our DGs, DGEs and DGN's. The Institute itself is scheduled from September 3-5, 2026. For more information on the Zone Institute week please visit [Institute – Rotary Zones 26 & 27 \(zone2627.org\)](https://zone2627.org).

6.C. Rotary International Convention. Imagine joining more than 20,000 Rotarians from around the world for one of Rotary's most inspiring events—the Rotary International Convention. Held in a different global destination each year, the convention offers an unforgettable opportunity to experience the worldwide impact of Rotary through inspiring keynote speakers, educational breakout sessions,

project showcases, cultural experiences, and fellowship with members from more than 200 countries and geographic areas.

Upcoming convention locations include:

- **Barcelona, Spain** – June 26–30, 2027
- **Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA** (*tentatively selected*) – May 27–31, 2028
- **Dubai, United Arab Emirates** (*tentatively selected*) – June 23–27, 2029

The 2027 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona promises to be an extraordinary celebration of service, friendship, and global connection. Whether you are attending for the first time or returning as a seasoned participant, you'll come away with fresh ideas, lasting friendships, and renewed inspiration to make an even greater impact through Rotary.

Learn more about this unique Rotary experience at <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/>.

6.D. Giving to The Rotary Foundation. Perhaps one of the most effective ways you can support Rotary is by making an annual contribution, at any level, to The Rotary Foundation. Each year, Rotarians in our District give over \$350,000. These funds come back to our District and are used for both District and Global Grants, as well as Scholarships. We also give generously to eradicating Polio which has reduced cases of the Wild Polio Virus from over 350,000 per year in 1986, which the program began to just 7 cases in the world this year. This effort has saved millions from a lifetime of disability or even death.



Donating to Rotary means clean water and sanitation. Health and hope have grown in areas that were once ravaged by diseases like polio. Economic development and new opportunities develop more prosperous communities. Your financial help makes all this happen, and more.

Give where the need is greatest. When you give to The Rotary Foundation, you fuel Rotary service projects in your community and worldwide- projects that eradicate polio, promote peace, and improve developing communities.

With your help, we can make lives better in your community and around the world. Giving works because Rotary works. We are proud that 88% of donations go straight to supporting our service projects.

Our 35,000 clubs conduct sustainable humanitarian service projects. Using donations from both Rotarians others, Rotary has played a key role in wiping out 99 percent of all polio cases. Your donations train future peacemakers, support clean water, and strengthen local economies.

Your donation can save a life. A child can be protected from polio with as little as sixty cents. Our partners make your donation go even farther. For every \$1 Rotary commits to polio eradication, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has committed \$2. Please visit [The Rotary Foundation | Rotary International](https://www.rotary.org/en-us) to learn more about The Rotary Foundation.