



Interact Club

Inauguration Ceremony



Although there is no prescribed ceremony to celebrate the charter of a new Interact club, it is important to recognize this event with some formality. The sponsoring Rotary club, along with the District Governor, District Interact Chairperson and Representative (if possible), are encouraged to present the Interact club with the official Interact charter certificate and welcome the Interactors into the Rotary family.

Modeling the occasion after the sponsoring Rotary club traditions is a good way to get started. The following ideas for topics to present, examples of script, and ceremony suggestions can be adapted accordingly.

What is Rotary?

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Over 1.2 million Rotarians, from virtually every nation, plan and carry out a remarkable variety of humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs that touch people's lives in their local communities and our world community.

The 4-Way Test

Rotarians pledge to uphold the 4-Way Test "in things they say and do" and as a Interactor, you too, are asked to make an effort to support these principles:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and better friendships?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

A Member of the Rotary Family

By joining Interact, you are uniting with 338,000 young people in 139 countries and geographic areas who belong to over 14,700 Interact clubs around the world. Along with commitment to community and international service, Interactors strive to develop leadership and professional skills that will benefit them throughout their career.

History

Since its earliest days, Rotary has been committed to helping children in need. But in 1960, the organization took a new approach to youth service. Recognizing the untapped potential of young men and women, RI President Harold T. Thomas urged Rotary clubs around the world to find ways to encourage service among youth, foster their active interest in the community, and offer opportunities for them to develop as leaders.

Two years later, 23 students at Melbourne High School in Melbourne, Florida, USA, came together to form the first Interact club. Now, Rotarians were not just helping youth but empowering them to serve locally and internationally with their Rotary club sponsors. Ever since, thousands of communities around the world have benefited from the service of Interact clubs.

Interactors have discovered a program that offers fun, meaningful service activities while providing a chance to develop leadership skills and meet new friends. In turn, sponsor Rotary clubs have gained increased support for projects and fresh ideas for service while helping to develop future Rotarians.

Joining in this truly international phenomenon, the Interact club of _____ developed.....
(provide a unique account of how, why, and when your new Interact club became a reality).

Induction of Members

(This can be done as a group, or individually.)

Introduce members: "_____, it is our pleasure to formally induct you into this Interact club of_____. You are asked to promise to do goodwill within your community and your country. In addition to service, you will have the benefits of strong bonds of friendship with fellow Interactors, locally and worldwide, as well as the chance to develop strong leadership and professional skills."

Introduction of Officers and Board Members

Announce each officer and their position. Emphasize the importance of their positions as leaders of the new club and that their leadership is essential to its success and continuity. Ask that they are familiar with and uphold the Interact Constitution and Bylaws. Allow each officer to say a few words and give a brief outline of their goals for the new Interact club.

Symbolic Gesture of Interact Club Membership

Consider presenting each Interactor with a Interact pin to symbolize their membership. Or, a banner or flag for the club to display at their meetings and events. (Merchandise can be ordered through RI's licensed vendors.)

Ceremony pamphlet

Create a short agenda for the inauguration and include the names of the Interactors and others involved in the event. Distribute at the beginning of the program.

Photo Opportunity

Take photos to commemorate the event and share with future Interactors!