

ADVISER 101



WHAT IS AN INTERACT ADVISOR?

“The **Rotarian Adviser** – acts as a liaison between the Rotary club and the Interactors and between the Rotary Club and the **faculty adviser** for school-based clubs. The faculty advisor oversees the activities of the school-based Interact club and acts as a liaison between the Rotary club and school administration” – *Interact Handbook*

WHAT DO INTERACTORS LOOK FOR IN AN ADVISOR?

FRIENDLY MINDFUL TIMELY

- Get to know your officers and active members.
- A strong personal relationship between you and the club is key to a strong year.
- Be sure to say “**HI**” when you see them in the halls.
- Nothing shows you care more than a speedy response on emails and phone calls from your club officers.
- When you see a problem, be quick to act and assist the officers. (Ex. Such as rambunctious members at a meeting).



RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE COMMITTED

- Be aware of what the club is doing.
- Take an interest in Interact as a whole, including area and district events.
- Keep an eye out for officers that would use prodding or even removal from office.
- Be the shoulder for the club to lean on.
- Sometime all the club needs is the help you can provide from the faculty or Rotary club. (Ex. Sometimes they just need adult insight of the situation).
- Be there and on time for any events or meetings that you are supposed to attend.

ABC'S OF INTERACT FOR FACULTY ADVISORS



A

Allow your students to be the leaders and active members of the Interact Club. Let them do the planning, organizing and executing, so that they will feel complete ownership of the club.

B

Be an active supporter by assisting and guiding your students with service events and fundraisers. They will need your guidance in handling school policy, staying connected with the Interact District and their sponsoring Rotary club.

C

Create opportunities for students to shine, to grow in their personal development and leadership skills, and to increase their awareness of the benefits of service both locally and globally.

ABC'S OF INTERACT FOR ROTARIAN ADVISORS



What makes Interact so special?

- Interact produces leaders
- Interactors live our motto of “*Service Above Self*”
- Interactors love to help us with our projects
- Interactors are potential Rotarians
- ROI (Return on Interact) is significant

FACT: Did you know that just one Interact club provided over \$100,000 in community service volunteerism in one semester? And they raised over \$5,000 to provide life-saving water filters overseas. Their sponsoring Rotary club spent less than \$2,000, including RYLA for incoming leaders. **It is Rotarians TIME that leads to a successful Interact club.**

“After traveling the nation for 30 years and talking with kids from all races and social economic backgrounds, I am constantly amazed at how brilliant they are. One thing they all have in common no matter what their background is ...

... they want someone to listen and someone to care.” – Michael Pritchard

Here is the ‘not-so-secret’ sauce for Interact success:

A – Availability Take and return the call, e-mail, or text. Give a ride to/from an event. Attend Board and General meetings, and especially Interact club events.

B – Budget Have a spending plan. Let them know what you will fund and be timely,

i.e. never, I repeat, never, make them wait or beg for the money.

C – Connect Develop a coaching relationship with your Interact leaders. Rotarians are role models, so let them see how we do what we do, and how we do it.

Develop a supportive relationship with your Faculty Advisor. The support team of Rotarian Advisor and Faculty Advisor is the bedrock of Interact club strength and continuity.

ACTION PLAN:

If you have an Interact club:

- Assign the “right” Rotarian as Advisor (thrives on working with young people)
- Confirm your Interact club is active – invite them to your club meeting to report on activities
- Confirm the Faculty Advisor is active and reachable (personal phone and e-mail)
- Send incoming Presidents to RYLA, Fall Leadership Conference, and Presidents Winter Retreat. These events build leaders and leaders build successful clubs
- Foster active relationships with Interact club President(s) and Faculty Advisor(s) – recognize and reward their efforts with lavish praise
- Participate in each other’s projects – a great resource for Rotary clubs
- Consider sponsoring another club – success breeds success
- Promote a culture of success - make Interact the premier club on campus

If you don’t have an Interact club:

- Contact the District Outreach Coordinator at: outreach@interact5170.org

ABC'S OF INTERACT

Club Success Axioms



These are general guidelines that can make your club successful:

1. A caring, available and involved **Faculty Advisor**.
2. A caring dedicated and involved **Rotarian Advisor**.
3. Hold **AT LEAST** one general club meeting per month.
 - a. *This number varies from club to club depending on club size and organization. The club and members benefit by staying updated on Interact school events, area events, district events, community service projects, fundraisers, and more.*
4. Hold **AT LEAST** one officer/board meeting per month before the general meeting.
5. Have at least two events each month.
 - a. *This can be community service and fundraising events that are fun, build teamwork, raise awareness, and promote service-mindedness.*
6. Set a club fundraising goal and consistently monitor progress.
 - a. *Ensure good banking practices and reconcile reports with school club bank accounts and treasurers.*
7. Support area events.
 - a. *Attend area meetings and help organize events such as area socials, fundraisers, or community service projects.*
8. Have **AT LEAST** one major fundraising event.
 - a. *Have large fundraiser such as an annual bake sale, International Night, Charity Dinner, Benefit Show, etc.*
9. Keep in touch with your sponsoring Rotary club.
 - a. *Invite Rotarians to your meetings and go to their meetings. Maintain a healthy relationship with your Rotary club, because they are a great resource for projects, fundraising, and support (financial and advice).*
10. Conduct joint projects with other area clubs.
 - a. *Interact clubs and members benefit when they interact with schools in their areas by networking and creating area unity.*
11. Interact club merchandise
 - a. *This is a great fundraiser that promotes club spirit and advertises the club.*
12. Start an Interact Middle School Interact Club
 - a. *It increases membership at the high school level because once the Interact Middle School students graduate, they already know about Interact. It also increases community involvement.*
13. Encourage members/officers to attend District events like: New Presidents Meeting (*September*), Fall Leadership Conference (*October*), Presidents Winter Retreat (*February*), Incentive Cruise (*May*), Summer Sendoff (*June*).