  An Overview; Who, How, Why.

Rotary Interact Clubs meet all over the world. Over 350,000 Interactors in Elementary, Middle and High Schools meet to build leadership skills, create friendships, and do service projects under the support of local Rotary International Clubs. Rotary’s mission of ‘Service Above Self’ and the 4-Way Test are the cornerstone of all Rotary and Interact Clubs.

Who: Interact is created by the three-pronged approach, like a three-legged stool. If any of these legs faulter, the Interact Club is not as strong.

* **One leg** is the students, our Interactors who are in the Interact Club.
* **One leg** is the school advisor; a teacher, classified person, anyone in the school who be a strong supporter, communicator, organizer, and attend Interact Club meetings. The school will provide a place to meet. Administration will acknowledge the club in its list of clubs and school activities.
* **One leg** is the sponsoring Rotary Club who will have a member who will act as a liaison to the Interact Club. The Rotary Club will provide financial support for projects, as needed, and work with the Interact Club for fundraising that the students want to do.

How: The creation of an Interact Club has a few steps.

* There is a commitment from the local Rotary Club to sponsor an Interact Club.
* An outreach to the school administration for an understanding and support of the Interact Club.
* The administration identifies a school advisor.
* A group of students is found to champion and start the Interact Club. Who can be this leader? It only takes a few. There is no set number for membership in the Club. It grows as interest grows. Interact is a self-governing club. The Interact Club belongs to the students and decisions are made by the students with guidance from other adults as needed.
* District 5450 works with the Interact Club to confirm its charter through Rotary International.

Interact Clubs can meet weekly, bi-weekly or on a schedule they decide. The students and the school will find a location. A typical meeting is 45 minutes to an hour. It begins with the Pledge of Allegiance and saying the Rotary 4-Way Test. The meeting will be what the students want. It’s highly recommended that it includes a way for students to get to know each other, a service activity, or planning for an upcoming event. Make it active, as no one wants to sit too long😊 .

Each year the Interact Club will complete a minimum of one local and one international project. Ideas for projects can be found through students, Rotarians, and District 5450 Youth Services. Our District 5450 Interact Clubs is 50+ and growing. Each year Interactors can attend a District 5450 Conference where students can meet others, share ideas, and have fun. Advisors have opportunity to connect with advisors.

Why: The importance of creating an Interact Club is HUGE! Interactors will begin to understand their ability to have a positive impact in the world and their local community through service. Building great Young Rotarians in leadership, service and fun by meeting others provides opportunity for all to grow!

Cheryl O’Brien, D5450 Youth Services Chair July 2024