

Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotary members, their partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people with whom they come into contact and protect them from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Rotary takes all youth protection concerns seriously.

Rotary's approach to preventing abuse

The safety and well-being of young people and youth program participants are Rotary's highest priority. Our comprehensive approach to youth protection includes:

- No tolerance for abuse or harassment of young people
- Policies that prevent misconduct and outline how to respond to grooming behaviors and abuse that involve youth and other program participants
- Mandatory youth protection training for governors-elect
- A dedicated and trained staff that uses a trauma-informed approach when receiving and responding to reports of sexual abuse or harassment
- A certification process that requires Rotary districts involved in Rotary Youth Exchange to have:
 - Student, family, and volunteer training in abuse prevention
 - Volunteer screening that includes an application, criminal background check, and reference checks
- A process for reporting allegations of abuse and harassment to Rotary and local law enforcement
- District-specific youth protection policies
- On-site evaluations (audits) that are conducted by Rotary staff member

Youth protection resources for members

Rotary provides comprehensive resources for clubs and districts that participate in youth programs so they can confidently implement our youth protection policies and act to prevent abuse and harassment, Protecting Youth Program Participants (Learning Center).

Working with other youth-serving organizations

If your club or district is interested in working or partnering with a local youthserving organization, we recommend you:

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1. Ensure any organization you partner with has youth protection policies in place that meet or exceed Rotary's policies
 - Confirm the partner organization has a process to appropriately screen, vet, and train volunteers
 - Confirm the partner organization's program participants receive youth protection related training and education
 - Verify that adults do not have significant, unsupervised, one-on-one contact with youth or if they do that there are policies and procedures for ensuring those interactions are appropriate, monitored, and reviewed as appropriate
 - Confirm the partner organization has a process to prohibit individuals from contact with youth who are ineligible or have a documented pattern of inappropriate behavior
 - Periodically review the partner organization's youth protection policies if the partner organization does not regularly complete a self-assessment or audit.
2. Create a memorandum of understanding to identify your responsibilities, the partner organization's responsibilities, and any shared responsibilities related to youth protection
3. Keep program participants' parents/legal guardians aware of your relationship with other youth-related organizations and where they can go to find more information
4. Regularly check-in with both your counterparts at the partner organization and youth program participants about your experiences working together
5. Stay apprised of the organization's community reputation and any issues that may arise that could compromise the safety of youth or damage Rotary's reputation as a partner
6. Modify, suspend, or end Rotary's relationship with the partner organization if an allegation, suspicion, or report of misconduct occurs
7. Ensure Rotary branding is used appropriately, clearly, and in accordance with Rotary's policies
8. Confirm the partner organization has adequate liability insurance and require the partner organization to indemnify your club or district and name it as an additional insured.

Related resources

Rotary's programs for young leaders strive to offer diverse and inclusive experiences. Rotary provides resources to help clubs and districts develop

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programs that promote dignity and respect for all, Preventing and Addressing Harassment (online course).

Report a youth protection concern

It's important to understand your responsibility to report any youth protection concerns to Rotary International.

Our incident and allegation reporting policy

Rotary International takes all reports of misconduct seriously, and it is the responsibility of all Rotary members and non-member volunteers to ensure that any serious incidents that involve youth and program participants — including all allegations of abuse or harassment — are promptly reported to local authorities and to Rotary International. Doing so not only is required but also is a way to prevent further abuse or harm. *How do I report a youth protection concern?*

1. Ensure that the young person is in a safe environment.
2. In case of emergency, contact local law enforcement immediately.
3. Report your concern to Rotary International, using the button below, within 72 hours.

Reporting abuse or a youth protection concern can be difficult. If you need advice or assistance, write to us at youthprotection@rotary.org or call +1 866-976-8279 08:00-16:00 Chicago time (UTC-5 or UTC-6) to talk with Rotary's Youth Protection staff. Our staff members are experienced and trained in receiving reports of abuse or misconduct that involves youth, and each situation will be handled with care and confidentiality.

Reporting requirements according to the Rotary Code of Policies

All allegations of abuse or harassment shall be reported to RI within 72 hours of learning of the incident. Failure to report incidents to RI within 72 hours may result in suspension of the district's Rotary Youth Exchange certification. Where there is sufficient evidence that an individual, club, or district knowingly failed to report as required, the general secretary may determine whether and/or the extent to which involved parties may continue to be eligible to participate in Rotary's youth programs, or whether additional sanctions may be necessary, including but not limited to requiring the club to terminate an individual's membership.