

Relevance

Rotary's core values and guiding principles give members a common purpose and direction.

Learning objectives

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- Understand Rotary's core values and guiding principles
- Apply Rotary's values to their club's activities

Before the session

- Ask participants what they would like to gain from the session and use their comments to customize its content.
- Consider how you will facilitate the session and adjust it for your audience.
- Think of an opening activity that will grab participants' attention and other ways to keep the session interactive.
- Prepare any materials you will need for the session.
- Review [Rotary's guiding principles](#) and the core values in [Rotary's strategic plan](#).

During the session

- Welcome participants and introduce yourself.
- Review learning objectives.
- Highlight these key messages:
 - Guiding principles and core values define what's important to us, and we demonstrate them through actions and policies.
 - Rotary's guiding principles and core values are key to planning the organization's future.
 - They are a blueprint to guide districts, clubs, and even members to develop their own principles and values.
- Use discussion questions to boost conversation:
 - What are Rotary's guiding principles?
 - What are Rotary's core values?
 - Why are they important for leadership and decision making?

- What actions and policies demonstrate our guiding principles and core values?
- What are your personal guiding principles and core values?
- How do they factor into your everyday lives?
- Lead one of the activities below.
- At the end of the session:
 - Take questions from participants.
 - Review the learning objectives to make sure they've been achieved.
 - Ask participants to write down one idea they'll use from the session.

Activities

1. Purpose: Putting principles into action
 - Allow 20 minutes for this activity.
 - Explain that each group of participants will discuss a hypothetical unethical scenario that could occur in a Rotary club or professional setting. Ask participants to use their own guiding principles to decide how they would handle the situation.
 - Scenarios:
 - You learn that a member of your club has been taking money from grant funds.
 - You overhear an inappropriate conversation that visibly bothers someone else who overhears the discussion.
 - You are on a project team, and one of the members is missing meetings and deadlines, and is not adding to the project.
 - Divide participants into groups of three or four to begin discussions.
 - Afterward, gather the groups together again and ask for volunteers to talk about their scenarios.

2. Purpose: Identifying guiding principles
 - Allow 20 minutes for this activity.
 - Ask participants to think about their involvement in their Rotary club, and everything their club is accomplishing.
 - As a group, have them tell which guiding principles define their club.
 - Record their answers on a flip chart and see if any responses overlap.
 - Continue the discussion by asking:
 - Do the club's accomplishments exemplify its guiding principles?
 - What future activities will best help the club embody its guiding principles?
 - How can this help with your club's membership and public image?