

# Rotary District 7475 Youth Protection Seminar

April 28, 2026

# Rotary International 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.*

# Youth Programs Include

rotary  
youth  
exchange

Interact 

RYLA

Youth programs also include any program that involves youth, including scholarship programs with direct youth contact, Dictionary Project distribution and local club or community programs your club actively participates in.

Insurance Alert: Certain youth programs, such as Earlyact, Youthact and similar programs are not covered by Rotary International insurance. Insurance restrictions also include camps and related entities that are organized and run by clubs. Be aware of these limitations

Clubs are not allowed to run independent youth exchange programs.

# The \$ Cost of Failure...

## Boy Scouts of America

# \$2.46B

**Bankruptcy Settlement  
(2022)**

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<b>82,000+</b>	Claimants in bankruptcy case
<b>Ch. 11</b>	BSA filed for bankruptcy Feb 2020
<b>\$850M</b>	Insurance companies' contribution
<b>1944</b>	"Perversion files" secretly kept since

## Catholic Church

# \$4B+

**Total U.S. Settlements  
Since 1950**

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<b>300+</b>	Dioceses that have paid settlements
<b>30+</b>	U.S. dioceses filed for bankruptcy
<b>\$1B</b>	Los Angeles Diocese alone (2007)
<b>17</b>	Grand jury reports issued (PA alone)

**...does not include the reputational cost,  
which cannot be valued.**

WHILE YOU ARE PROTECTING YOUTH, YOU ARE  
ALSO PROTECTING YOURSELF

YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN AN ABUSE OR  
HARASSMENT ACTION

WE ARE HERE TONIGHT TO HELP PREVENT THAT FROM  
OCCURRING

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**Qualifications**

Practicing Attorney

Completed advanced training, been vetted by referrals and had periodic background checks

**Our Goal**

To ensure **ALL** Rotary activities in our District are safe and inclusive for all participants, including youth.

We want to encourage student exchanges, student involvement in our service projects and the growth of Interact Clubs as this will provide a pipeline for future Rotarians, but only if these experiences are positive for the participants.

## Recent Incident

A Rotarian made an inappropriate remark to a group of female high school students that were volunteering at a club event. This constitutes harassment.

The Rotarian defended the remarks as innocent and should not be interpreted to have any sexual connotation.

**IF THERE IS ANY POSSIBLE DOUBLE MEANING IN A STATEMENT IT SHOULD NOT BE SAID!**

## COMMON SENSE GUIDELINES

- No one should be making any questionable statements to **ANYONE!**
- It is not acceptable to remark on any individual's looks, age or attire.
- A Rotarian should not be offering her or his personal contact information or offering to provide personal assistance to any youth.
- There should be no one-to-one communication either electronically or in person.  
(This point is important for scholarship committees.)

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- If any Rotarian observes a questionable interaction, or a young person reports an incident, you as a Rotarian need to inform your Club leadership and myself or DG Law or the future DG. This reporting requirement is immediate!
- The Rotarian involved in the incident and the Club President must be informed that an investigation is being initiated by the District.
- Any Rotarian involved shall not be allowed any further interaction with Youth until the outcome of the investigation.
- Additional parties to inform: Rotary International, parents of the youth, and police.

## CLUB LEADERSHIP

Please regularly remind members of their obligations to safeguard our youth and behave appropriately!  
**If you see something, SAY SOMETHING!**

# Guidelines for Youth Programs

- Train & Screen Volunteers
- Restrict One-to-One Contact
- Have Multiple Leaders in a Group Environment
- Monitor & Supervise
- Respond & Report
- Be Transparent

# Levels of Training Certification

Levels of training and certification required are based on the type and amount of contact with youth

- Level 1: One-to-One & Group Supervision & Leadership
- Level 2: Group Only Supervision & Leadership
- Level 3: Incidental or Infrequent Contact in a Group Environment

# Level 1: Youth Counselor Advanced Certification

## Required If

- A) Direct, unsupervised contact with youth
- B) Direct authority over a youth program
- C) Perform overnight supervision of youth

## What

- A) Complete Youth Counselor Advanced Application – requires references
- B) Online background check
- C) Rotary Learning Center courses, plus additional Youth Exchange courses as required.
- D) District Leader Interview

## Who

- A) Youth Exchange leader, host or club counselor
- B) Interact Advisor of school-based club if not a vetted school employee
- C) Interact Advisor of a community-based club
- D) RYLA on-site leaders
- E) Anyone with access to personal information of youth

# Level 2: Group Leader Basic Certification

## Required If

- A) Will be supervising or in leadership contact with youth in a group environment
- B) In contact with youth on a regular basis

No Unsupervised one-to-one contact is allowed

## What

- A) Complete the Group Leader Basic Application
- B) Complete the Protecting Youth Program Participants Rotary Learning Center Course

## Who

- A) Club President and other officers of clubs with youth programs, including scholarship programs and other club-based youth programs.
- B) Interact Assistant Advisor if the primary Advisor has Advanced Certification or is a vetted school employee.
- C) Interact Assistant Advisors who are vetted school employees

## Level 3: Meet & Greet Rotarian Guidelines

**Every member should read and understand the Youth Protection Guidelines document available on the Youth Protection Webpage**

### **Summary of Key Points:**

- **Do not engage in verbal abuse**
- **Do not discriminate**
- **Stay in groups**
- **Establish and maintain boundaries**
- **Get consent**
- **Recognize and report bad behavior**

# TRUST BUT VERIFY

The system notifies school districts and employers that one of their workers is no longer eligible for employment because of a “disqualifying offense” under New Jersey’s school background check law. Crimes that could disqualify employees include serious felonies, sexual assault, child abuse and certain drug offenses.



## N.J. schools kept 36 teachers and staff convicted of crimes on payroll — some for years

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# Interact Advisor Registration

Interact Club Advisors must be registered with RI

The link to this online form is available on our District Youth Protection page and in the Interact Handbook for Clubs and Advisors.

Rotary ID # is Required if a Rotarian

## Report Your Interact Club Advisor

Your Interact club is required to have a reported advisor annually. Advisors may be a member of the sponsoring Rotary or Rotaract club, a school administrator or faculty member, or community volunteer to serve as an adult contact to the Interact club. Although more than one person may serve in this role for your Interact club, Rotary International requires only one individual to be reported per Rotary each year (1 July – 30 June).

**Important: This form should only be used by Interact clubs with active/suspended status with Rotary International.**

**Before you complete this form, verify the status, official name, and club ID of your Interact club. A list of Interact clubs is accessible to all Rotarians and district Rotaract leaders on My Rotary. Learn how to access the list using our [How to Update Interact Club Information](#) guide.**

If completing this form on behalf of the Interact advisor, be sure to get consent from the individual *before* entering their information below.

### Interact Club Information

Interact club name \*

Interact club ID \*

Rotary year \*

### Interact Club Advisor Information

First name \*

Middle name

Last/Family name \*

Email \*

If you have been previously reported in our database and have an active My Rotary account, please enter the same email address associated with your My Rotary account to avoid duplicate records. Otherwise, enter your individual email address. Do not enter a shared or club email address.

If you are a Rotarian or Rotaractor, enter your member ID

What do you want to

I want to...

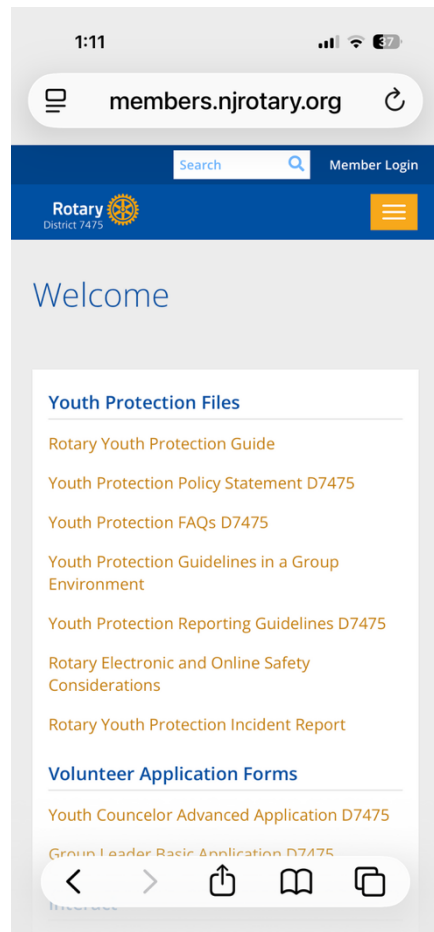


# District Youth Protection Web Page

Main Menu Link

Detailed Info & Links

Top Line Info



Welcome

### Youth Protection Files

- Rotary Youth Protection Guide
- Youth Protection Policy Statement D7475
- Youth Protection FAQs D7475
- Youth Protection Guidelines in a Group Environment
- Youth Protection Reporting Guidelines D7475
- Rotary Electronic and Online Safety Considerations
- Rotary Youth Protection Incident Report

### Volunteer Application Forms

- Youth Counselor Advanced Application D7475
- Group Leader Basic Application D7475

### Interact

- Interact Handbook for Clubs and Advisers

### Links

- Rotary Learning Center
- Register Your Interact Club Advisor

### Other Files

- How to Create a My Rotary Account

Welcome

rotary youth exchange Interact RYLA

## Rotary International Statement of Conduct for Working With Youth

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## Youth Program Rotarian and Volunteer Participation Requirements

All Rotarian and non-Rotarian volunteers interested in working with, participating in service projects with, or in any other way coming into contact in their capacity as a Rotarian with youth, must meet Rotary International and district eligibility requirements.

Those who have admitted to, have been convicted of, or are known to have engaged in sexual abuse or sexual harassment of a youth or program participant are ineligible for Rotary membership — even if these crimes were committed long ago. Any volunteer who admits to, is convicted of, or is otherwise known to have engaged in sexual abuse or sexual harassment or other act that violates the accepted standard of behavior in the community is prohibited from working with youths through Rotary. You must not be included in any sex offender registry.

## Youth Program Training & Screening

Training and screening are required for Rotarians and volunteers involved in youth programs. Appropriate levels of training and screening depend on:

- The Rotarian or volunteer's position and whether they have direct authority over the youth program and the well-being of participants
- The amount or frequency of contact with youth, from incidental or infrequent to regular or significant
- The type of contact, such as group interactions, overnight supervision, or unsupervised individual contact

## Youth Counselor ADVANCED Certification

Advanced Certification is required if you will have A) direct, unsupervised contact with youth; B) have direct authority over a youth program; or C) perform overnight supervision of youth.

Advanced Certification is required if you are involved in any Youth Exchange program as a leader, youth host or club counselor. All clubs hosting a Youth Exchange student must have a member with Advanced Certification, and it is recommended that the club president is also certified.

Interact Advisers of school-based programs require Youth Counselor Advanced Certification if activities are conducted off-campus or if they are not a vetted staff member of the school where the school-based program is

You can also access everything on your phone











Go to: [rotary.org/learn](https://rotary.org/learn)

Enter Your Rotary International  
User-Name & Password




































Click on this box



Courses by Topic

<b>About Rotary</b>  <a href="#">View Courses About Rotary</a>	<b>Club Leadership</b>  <a href="#">View Club Leadership Courses</a>	<b>District Leadership</b>  <a href="#">View District Leadership Courses</a>
<b>General</b>  <a href="#">View General Courses</a>	<b>Membership</b>  <a href="#">View Membership Courses</a>	<b>Professional Development</b>  <a href="#">View Professional Development Courses</a>
<b>Public Image</b>  <a href="#">View Public Image Courses</a>	<b>Service</b>  <a href="#">View Service Courses</a>	<b>The Rotary Foundation</b>  <a href="#">View Rotary Foundation Courses</a>
	<b>Learning Facilitator</b>  <a href="#">View Learning Facilitator Courses</a>	

21 Items

  <b>All About Rotary Peace Fellowships</b>  EN   15m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Areas of Focus</b>  ENROLLED EN   30m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Creating a Club Culture of Belonging</b>  ENROLLED EN   15m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Diversify Your Club</b>  ENROLLED EN   45m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Fostering Engagement and Belonging</b>  ENROLLED EN   15m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Getting Started with Learning Topics</b>  EN   15m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning
 <b>Getting Started With the Learning Center</b>  ENROLLED EN   15m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>How to Bid for the Convention</b>  EN   20m 00s  E-learning	  <b>How to Propose Enactments and Resolutions</b>  EN   45m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Nominating an RI Director</b>  EN   15m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Preventing and Addressing Harassment</b>  ENROLLED EN   45m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Protecting Personal Data</b>  ENROLLED EN   30m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning
  <b>Protecting Youth Program Participants 2025-26</b>  ENROLLED EN   30m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Rotary Action Group Leader Essentials</b>  16 courses   6h 25m  Learning plan	  <b>Rotary Basics</b>  ENROLLED EN   15m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Rotary Fellowship Leader Essentials</b>  5 courses   2h 30m  Learning plan	  <b>Rotary Foundation Basics</b>  ENROLLED EN   45m 00s ★ 5.0  E-learning	  <b>Rotary's Action Plan</b>  5 courses   2h 00m  Learning plan

Click on this box →