

# Rotary Membership FAQ

## What is Rotary?

Rotary International is an association of Rotary clubs worldwide. It's made up of more than 33,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. The members of these autonomous clubs are called Rotarians, and they form a global network of 1.2 million business and professional leaders, all volunteering their time and talents to serve their communities and the world. Individual Rotary clubs, in turn, belong to the global association called Rotary International.

## How do I become a member of Rotary?

Often, a person being considered for membership is invited by a club member, or sponsor, to attend one or more club meetings to learn more about Rotary. In this case, the sponsor submits the candidate's name to the club's membership committee. Please note that membership in a Rotary club is by invitation only.

## What are the qualifications for membership?

A prospective member must be a person of good character with a good business, professional, or community reputation and also be one of the following:

- A current or former professional, proprietor, executive, manager, or community leader
- Committed to service with a record of personal involvement
- A Rotary Foundation alumnus
- Typically live in or near the community where the club is located

## What are the responsibilities of membership?

Members are expected to attend weekly club meetings. They must pay annual dues to their clubs, their Rotary district, and Rotary International, and they're expected to participate in local

or international Rotary club activities or projects. Clubs encourage members to aspire to club leadership or committee roles.

### **What are the attendance requirements?**

An attendance record of 50 percent is required to remain an active Rotarian. Any missed meeting must be made up within 14 days before or after the regular meeting. Members are welcome to visit any Rotary club meeting, anywhere in the world.

### **What is the minimum age to be in Rotary?**

There is no minimum age to join Rotary. You may be invited to join at any age after you become established in a career and have the time and financial resources to meet all Rotary club membership requirements. If you're interested in joining a Rotary club, ask members about the time and financial commitments necessary to fulfill membership requirements, and consider whether you can make those commitments.

### **Are college students eligible for membership?**

No. Rotarians have achieved a level of career experience that enables them to bring a specialization to their club, and students haven't yet reached a level in their professional and personal lives that allows them to fulfill all aspects of Rotary club membership. But undergraduate and graduate students, as well as young adults, may become members of Rotaract clubs .

### **Is there a way for high school students to get involved?**

Yes. Interact is a Rotary-sponsored service club for those ages 12 to 18. Interact clubs give young people an opportunity to participate in fun, meaningful service projects while developing leadership skills and meeting new friends.