



Rotaract Twin Club Tips

Twin clubs are two clubs from different countries that have agreed to partner with each other to complete a special program. This involves the personal participation of Rotaractors, be it in a service project or simply a friendship exchange.

Goals of Twin Club Relationships

- ◆ To emphasize the international aspect of Rotaract service and friendship
- ◆ To establish a long-term relationship with another club that will lead to ongoing projects
- ◆ To enhance understanding of another culture and foster goodwill

The Rotaract Club of Panvel Central, District 3130, India, and the Rotaract Club of Bournemouth, District 1110, England, established a twin club agreement with these goals in mind. Following extensive planning and communication, the clubs embarked on a cross-festival celebration as a joint project. Panvel Central Rotaractors celebrated Easter by observing Mass, making Easter bonnets, and taking part in Easter games. Across the world, Bournemouth Rotaractors celebrated the Indian Holi Festival of Colors. Rotaractors learned about the festival and Indian culture, painted colorful pictures, and sampled Indian cuisine. After the celebrations, the clubs published a joint bulletin detailing their experiences. As their next project, both clubs are seeking to raise awareness about the environment in their respective communities.

Determining Club Compatibility

Finding a suitable partner should be a club effort. In the search for a partner, clubs should first be able to clearly identify their interests, strengths, and weaknesses. When selecting a partner, consider clubs that:

- ◆ Hold similar interests
- ◆ Face similar challenges
- ◆ Possess expertise in an area that their club would like to improve
- ◆ Are located in a geographical region of interest to club members
- ◆ Share a common language or have resources available for translation/interpretation

A simple conversation between two district Rotaract representatives at a zone training seminar led to the establishment of a twin club relationship within the same region. Thanks to the Rotaractors' meeting, the Rotaract Club of Manila Metro, District 3810, Philippines and the Rotaract Club of North Balwyn, District 9800, Australia have since begun an e-mail relationship and have exchanged each other's newsletters. Rotaractors look forward to embarking on joint international service projects and a lasting friendship exchange.

Finding a Partner

After determining the type of club that would be an appropriate match, the next step is to look for a club that meets the established criteria. Here are a few ideas for finding a partner:

- ◆ Find a partner with the same name as your club's in the *Worldwide Rotaract Directory* (for example: the Rotaract Club of San Pedro, Bolivia, and the Rotaract Club of San Pedro,

Philippines)

- ◆ Enlist the help of your sponsoring Rotary club who may already have an existing twin club relationship with another Rotary club
- ◆ Contact your district Rotaract chair or representative for assistance

Establishing a Relationship

Careful planning and clear communication is essential to establishing a strong relationship. Like any other worthwhile project, Rotaract twin clubs take time and effort. Ensuring that each club clearly understands its role and responsibilities in the partnership is key. To formalize the relationship, clubs may wish to sign a simple letter of agreement, which outlines the goals and length of the partnership. Use your imagination and collect innovative ideas for building your twin club relationship. Some ideas for developing a strong relationship include the following:

- ◆ Establish a pen pal/e-mail network to correspond with twin club Rotaractors
- ◆ Undertake a small international or community service project
- ◆ Participate in a friendship exchange by arranging Rotaractor visits
- ◆ Observe a mutual day or weekend to celebrate the partnership
- ◆ Exchange project or club program ideas
- ◆ Hold a videoconference or web-based meeting
- ◆ Exchange handicrafts and local products

A visiting Rotaractor helped bring two Rotaract clubs closer, eventually establishing a twin club relationship. Marco Haschka, a member of the Rotaract Club of Ulm, District 1930, Germany, seized the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Rotaract Club of Tanjung Bungah, District 3300, Malaysia, while visiting the country. On 15 October 2003 the Rotaract clubs signed an agreement to form a twin club relationship. Rotaractors are seeking to maintain the relationship through similar Internet software applications and publishing a souvenir booklet.

Reporting Your Twin Club Relationship to RI

If your Rotaract club would like to share details about its successful twin club relationship, submit a short excerpt (approximately 500 words) to Rotaract. Be sure to include the names of the Rotaract clubs, district numbers, and contact information for both clubs. Reporting a Rotaract twin club relationship allows RI to quantify how many clubs are involved, identify the variety of programs undertaken, share the information with other Rotaract clubs, and recognize clubs for their accomplishments.

Rotaract Program
Rotary International
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201-3698
USA

Fax: 1.847.866.6116

E-mail: rotaract@rotary.org