



Tuesday, May 5, 2026 --- District Governor Bruce Monro

May is Rotary Youth Service Month

By Sue Archibald



May is Youth Service Month, a time when Rotary celebrates the power of young people to lead positive change. Through programs like Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, and Youth Exchange, Rotary empowers young people with leadership skills, global connections, and opportunities to serve their communities.

This month, Rotary clubs are encouraged to:

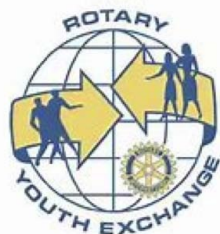
- Highlight and support youth-led service projects
- Partner with schools and youth groups
- Promote mentorship and leadership programs
- Celebrate the achievements of young leaders

Rotary believes in investing in the next generation—because they're not just our future, they're our present. Let's inspire and support young people as they shape a better world. In our District, we are constantly exploring ways to enhance our impact through programs and projects that focus on our community's young people. As I've traveled to clubs throughout the year, it's clear just how committed we are to this mission.

From **Rotary Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, and Youth Exchange**, to an incredible variety of local initiatives—Dictionary Projects, Scholarship Awards, Book Drives, Character and Reading Programs, Career Fairs, Teacher Grants, Mentoring Opportunities, and more—our clubs are making a real difference. Together, we're helping young people grow, lead, and thrive—and that's something to be proud of.

Rotary Youth Exchange: A Life-Changing Program

By Sue Archibald



The Rotary Youth Exchange program offers high school students in District 5500 the life-changing opportunity to study abroad through either a short-term or long-term exchange. Participants immerse themselves in a new culture, attend school, and live with host families—fostering international understanding, personal growth, and global friendships.

Exchange Options

- Long-Term Exchange: A full academic year abroad, with students attending school and living with multiple host families.
- Short-Term Exchange: A summer exchange lasting a few weeks, typically as a family-to-family experience.

Students serve as ambassadors of their home countries while gaining valuable life skills and new perspectives. Thanks to the support of Rotary clubs, this transformative experience is accessible to a diverse range of students.

A Hosting Experience to Remember

This year, DGND Leo Lawrenson and his family hosted exchange student Javier from Spain.

"Javier was a joy for our club and family to host," says Leo. "He was a model student, a great athlete, and a kind, caring young man. He brought a global perspective into our lives that was worth far more than the modest cost of hosting him. Having his parents and twin sister visit us from Spain for ten days and explore northern Arizona and the Tucson area together was an unforgettable bonus. Javier was our second exchange student—and my family and I are ready and eager to host again soon!"



LAST CHANCE!



These events are coming up
THIS WEEK!

Sierra Vista Satellite Club Cinco de Mayo Party 5/9/26

Rotary
ROTARY SATELLITE CLUB
of Sierra Vista - Evening

MAY 9th
5 PM
\$50

TICKETS

HOSTED BY:
Adrienne Weiss
2422 Isla Bonita Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

SALSA MAKING CONTEST

Rotarians are invited to come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a night of flavor, fun, and friendly competition at the Sierra Vista Satellite Rotary Club's annual fundraiser! Come to compete, taste, or simply enjoy the fiesta, knowing your participation helps strengthen our community :)

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

ADRIENNE WEISS CROSSCOUNTRY MORTGAGE
VISTA AUTO CARE
Pioneer Title Agency
Guild mortgage
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Century Point
Candy & Dave Pardee
Sarah Wieland & Adam Kroger
Randy Sueskind
DIA MOND

Rotary Members and friends are invited to the Sierra Vista Satellite Club's annual (post) Cinco de Mayo Party and Salsa Contest on Saturday, May 9th at 5PM.

Tickets are available here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/satellite-rotary-club-annual-cinco-de-mayo-party>.

Email satelliterotarysv@gmail.com directly to enter the salsa contest!

District Conference Updates!

This will be a regular feature in IMPACT! through the District Conference in Tubac, September 18 and 19, 2026.

District Conference Sponsorship Opportunities Available NOW

District Conference Sponsorship Opportunities Available NOW

September 18-19, 2026
Attention Club Presidents and Presidents-Elect

The annual District 5500 Conference of Clubs will take place on Friday and Saturday, September 18–19, 2026, at the Tubac Golf and Country Club.

We rely on sponsorships to help keep the registration cost as low as possible so more Rotarians can attend.

Please consider having your Club sponsor this year. We have many levels of sponsorship available. Friends \$100, Bronze \$250, Copper \$500, Silver \$1250, Gold \$2500 and Platinum \$5000.

Contact Johnoszust@outlook.com for more information on how you and your Club can help make this year's Conference another huge success.

The conference offers attendees the chance to:



- Learn about District Projects
- Collaborate with fellow Rotarians from neighboring clubs
- Exchange ideas and best practices
- Hear inspirational speakers
- Enjoy fellowship and networking

Thank you for your consideration, and we hope to see you in Tubac!

Hospitality Night at 2026 District Conference

By Virginia Leavitt



The District 5500 Conference Committee is working on DGE Emma's Conference coming up September 18–19, 2026.

Last year we were able to have our Hospitality night on Friday for the first time in years. It was a great success and sold out all the 11 hospitality rooms. This is just a reminder to club president-elects to budget for this. Some regions or clubs went together for their hospitality room.

Clubs bring in their own food and drinks. The cost of the room is \$165+ tax. If you have any questions or would like to reserve your room, please let me know. Virginia "Ginger" Leavitt, 520.971.6963, vleavitt2336@gmail.com.

Make Your Room Reservation Now for the 2026 District 5500 Conference!

2026 ROTARY DISTRICT 5500 CONFERENCE

Now Accepting Tubac Resort and Spa Reservations
Call the resort at **520-398-3507** to get a Rotary discount

CREATE LASTING IMPACT
How has Rotary impacted you?
Share Your Story

Save Date
SEPT. 18 & 19, 2026

Save the
2026 ROTARY DISTRICT 5500 CONFERENCE

Call the resort at **520-398-3507** to get a Rotary discount.

TUBAC GOLF RESORT AND SPA
1 Otero Road
Tubac, AZ 85646

Registration opens **July 1, 2026**

INSPIRATION
EDUCATION
ENTERTAINMENT
NETWORKING
GOLF
GREAT FOOD
SHOPPING
FUN

Tubac!
Rotary
District 5500

The 2026 Rotary District 5500 Conference will be held at the beautiful Tubac Golf Resort and Spa: 65 Avenida De Otero, Tubac, Arizona.

Mark your calendars for **September 18 and 19, 2026**, and start planning to attend this exciting annual Rotary District 5500 event offering an unforgettable experience for all District 5500 members and guests.

To secure accommodations at the resort, it is highly recommended to make your Tubac Resort and Spa room reservations early. For our Rotary discount rate, call the resort directly at **520-398-3507** and mention group code **ROTA 26** when booking your stay.

Registration for the conference opens July 1, 2026.

Reserve Your Table NOW for the House of Friendship

The House of Friendship is your chance to highlight your Club's service projects, fundraising successes, community impact, youth programs, or anything else that makes your Club great. Bring display boards, photos, handouts, or a slideshow to show your fellow Rotarians what your Club has been up to.

The District Conference takes place September 18 – 19, 2026. If your club would like to reserve a table, please contact Tina LJ McGee at TINALJMCGE929@outlook.com or text at 614-649-4926. We only have 24 tables available, so reserve early to be sure to get one.



District 5500 News and Upcoming Events You Should Know About!

Save the Date: DGE Emma's Installation June 7, 2026

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Save the Date

Governor Installation – June 7, 2026

Dear Rotarians of District 5500,
Please mark your calendars and save the date for a very special Rotary celebration!

Join us as we gather to celebrate the installation of
Emma Carrillo
as District Governor, Rotary Year 2026-2027.

Date: Sunday, June 7, 2026
Time: Installation and Program - 11:00 - 1:45
(Note: College of Governors - 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.)
Location: The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, 3800 E. Sunrise Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85718
Cost: \$65.00 per person
Registration is now open – deadline for registration June 2, 2026
2 ways to register: click on the link <https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID:77898199>
or go to DACdb District Calendar
Questions: contact Dave Lenox or Debbie Haddock

Rotary

<https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77898199>

or

<https://dacdb.com/Register4/index.cfm?EventID=77898199>

Register Now for a District Learning Assembly

REGISTER FOR THE SESSION NEAREST YOU!

[Sierra Vista - July 11, 2026](#)

[Tucson - July 18, 2026](#)

[Florence - July 25, 2026](#)

What to Expect

- * Grants Management Certification
- * Membership
- * Public Image
- * Youth Protection
- * Foundation
- * Governance Training
- * Secretary and Treasurer Training
- * Networking Opportunities
- * 3-Year Rolling Goals Strategy

Why Attend?

Prepare for the new Rotary year with focused leadership development sessions and comprehensive Rotary information. This assembly is an excellent opportunity to learn best practices, share ideas, and collaborate with Rotarians from across Southern Arizona. Take advantage of this opportunity to make a lasting impact within your club and communities.

Sierra Vista: July 11- (location-TBD)- We will communicate the location when it is available.
Tucson: July 18- Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2450 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.

DISTRICT 5500 LEARNING ASSEMBLY

Rotary
District 5500

Create Lasting Impact

Multiple Locations: Choose One

- Yuma – May 2
- Sierra Vista – July 11
- Tucson – July 18
- Florence – July 25

8:00 AM – 2:30 PM

No charge: breakfast and lunch will be provided

Who Should Attend:

- All Rotarians
- Presidents & Presidents-Elect
- Assistant Governors
- Secretaries
- Treasurers
- Membership Chairs
- Public Image Chairs
- Club Committee Chairs
- Foundation Chairs

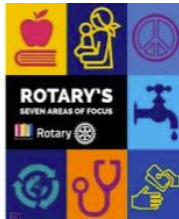
Rotary
District 5500

Register Now

Florence/Pinal County- July 25- Florence Community Center 778 N. Main Street, Florence, AZ.

District Grant Application Guidelines for Rotary Clubs

By Sue Archibald



2026/27 District Grant Application Process

Many Rotary clubs are already preparing their proposals for the 2026/27 District Grant cycle. Please note that all applications must be submitted by **July 30, 2026**. If you have any questions or require assistance during the application process, you are encouraged to reach out to our District Grants Chair, PDG Diane Ventura (Goodyear), at dvg@rotary5500.org.

Eligibility Requirements for District Grants

To be eligible for a District Grant in Rotary District 5500, each Rotary club must maintain good standing and fulfill all annual qualification requirements. These requirements include the following:

- Participation/completion by two club members in **Grants Management Training**, which is available both online and in person.
- One must be the main contact for the proposed project.
- Signing the district's **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**.
- Ensuring that the **incoming club president attends President-Elect Learning Seminar (PELS) training**.
- Being current on all financial obligations to The Rotary Foundation, RI and District dues and with no outstanding grant reports.
- Demonstrating the capacity to properly manage and steward grant funds.

Project Requirements

All projects funded through District Grants must align with Rotary's mission and provide a meaningful impact, either within the community or through humanitarian efforts.

Link for more information —

[Club Qualification for Foundation Grants | Rotary District 5500](#)

TRF: What are Some Ways to Leave a Legacy of Doing Good?



You can qualify as a **Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation** by making an outright gift of \$1,000 or more to the Endowment or notifying the Foundation that you've included the Endowment as a beneficiary of that amount in your estate plan.

Benefactors receive a certificate and insignia to wear with a Rotary or Paul Harris Fellow pin.

If you make a commitment for a future gift of \$10,000 or more to the Foundation, you'll be invited to join the **Bequest Society**.

Bequest Society members receive benefits and recognition pieces for different levels of giving, including pins and crystals, the ability to endow named funds, or special seating at the Rotary International Convention.

More than 100,000 Benefactors and more than 14,500 Bequest Society members are creating legacies of generosity as they help people around the world live better lives.

Contact johnszust@outlook.com or Oszustmonica@gmail.com for more information.

Arizona 250th Anniversary of the United States (Semiquincentennial)

By Leo J. Lawrenson

AMERICA



Rotary District 5500 is highlighting how we serve our communities—both locally and globally. Service projects strengthen our communities and our democracy when we contribute to the common good, and this year we're making it easier to recognize and share that impact.

We're building a districtwide database of service projects and aiming for at least **250 entries** across our **50 clubs**. Please submit the projects your club has completed, is currently doing, or has scheduled for this Rotary year. (Fundraisers without a direct service component do not count.) We're not asking for all-new projects—just what you already have planned or will do this year.

Why this matters: A strong project database helps us promote Rotary, attract new members who want to make a difference, and generate more positive attention for the good work already happening across our district. The more complete our project list is, the easier it will be to tell Rotary's story in a way that resonates with our communities.

Patriotic and community projects encouraged: If your club isn't currently planning a patriotic service project—such as supporting parades, hosting community picnics, organizing flag displays, or partnering with local organizations—consider adding one or teaming up with another group to make it happen.

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How to submit: Use the Club Projects Submission Form on the Rotary District 5500 website: rotaryd5500.org/clubprojectsform/

Club Projects Happening in District 5500 To Celebrate AND That Might Give Your Club Some Ideas!

Yes, we are trying something new again! If your club has a project underway or just completed that you would like other clubs to know about, send the details to DaveRotary5500@gmail.com. We will save this spot in IMPACT! each week for those stories. Be sure to include contact information for someone other clubs might reach out to for more information.

Get Rid of That Plastic!

By Alfred Lowy

NexTrex Recycling Challenge

For more information, contact [SaddleBrooke Rotary](#).

Those nasty, ubiquitous plastic bags just keep on coming. They don't just carry our groceries and other purchases, they clog our landfills, foul our waters and endanger our wildlife. For the SaddleBrooke Rotary Club, those bags (soft plastic) have been the source of several benches donated to community organizations through the NexTrex Recycling Challenge.

The 63-member club has been collecting soft plastic for more than two years, and the piles of plastic just keep getting greater – as do the benefits. The bags and other soft plastics are gathered for recycling. Participating organizations that meet or exceed quarterly goals (measured in pounds) are enrolled in lotteries to determine rewards to be made available to their communities. Benches are still among the rewards, as are group games, pop-up theater equipment and other items.

The NexTrex Recycling Challenge encourages schools and community organizations to collect plastic film and bags.

SaddleBrooke Rotary Club members collect the plastic from bins strategically placed throughout the communities it serves – outside of members' homes, at tennis and pickleball courts, dog parks, a drug store, etc. Why bother? Besides providing benches, rewards and recognition for Rotary, the effort ultimately helps improve the environment.

Which soft plastics can you recycle?

[Read More](#)

Fundraisers Your Club is Welcome to Attend

If you would like to highlight your club's events in this space, contact [Dave Lenox](#) with the event information and graphics!

Raise Money for Your Club! 6/3/26



For our third year in a row, Willcox Rotary is doing a Spring Raffle. Any Rotary club or other group can participate just by selling tickets and keeping half the money. The prizes are all donated, and the tickets are all printed. We have set this up so that many groups can share in the opportunity.

We've done the heavy lifting — you just have to let us know how many tickets your club would like. Let's raise some money together! There are 3 equal prizes, each totaling over \$2,000, including over \$900 cash. A list of the actual prizes can be sent when you receive your tickets. If you would like to just purchase tickets to the raffle, they are 1 ticket for \$10 or 3 for \$25.

Here is our online link to do so: <https://willcoxrotaryclub.betterworld.org/giveaways/3rd-annual-willcox-rotary-club>

Last day to buy tickets is June 2, 2026.
The drawing will be held on June 3, 2026.


Thanks, Bill Nolan, Secretary, Willcox Rotary, bill@willcox.net, 520-508-2225 and Tina LJ McGee, President, Willcox Rotary, tinaljmcgee929@outlook.com, 614-649-4926

Graphics Corner — Youth Services

Enjoy these inspiring Rotary graphics related to this month's international focus on **Environment**. They're yours to use for your club's communications. Just download and save to your graphics library, then use them in your social media, newsletters and other Rotary promotional items.


Core Values of Rotary

Our values guide who we are, what we do, and how we serve the world.




FELLOWSHIP

We build lasting relationships that promote global understanding, peace and goodwill.




INTEGRITY

We act with honesty and uphold the highest ethical standards in all we do.




DIVERSITY

We value diverse perspectives and celebrate the unique talents and backgrounds of our members.




SERVICE

We are committed to Service Above Self and making a positive lasting impact in our communities and the world.



LEADERSHIP

We empower members to lead with vision, inspire others, and create meaningful change.




TEAMWORK

We collaborate with others, leveraging our collective strengths to achieve greater impact.

**TOGETHER, WE
CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

These core values unite Rotarians around the world in our mission to create lasting change.



Rotary Youth Services

EMPOWERING YOUTH BUILDING TOMORROW

LEADERSHIP. SERVICE. CONNECTION.

Today's Youth. Tomorrow's Leaders.

INTERACT

Empowering young people to take action to solve global issues through service and leadership.

RYLA

Building confidence and leadership skills through ongoing opportunities that help youth reach their full potential.

YOUTH EXCHANGE

Opening minds and hearts to the world through cultural understanding and global friendships.

*Connecting Youth
Creating Change*

Rotary reaches young people in 195 countries, helping them to be leaders and changemakers in their communities and beyond.

**TOGETHER, WE INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION
TO SERVE, LEAD, AND SUCCEED.**

GET INVOLVED

Join our programs and support our mission.

BUILD FUTURES

Invest in youth today through committees and service projects.

Service Above Self

Share Your Club's News!



IMPACT! Showcases District 5500 news, updates, and upcoming events your club needs to know about. It also provides a place to advertise upcoming club projects and fundraisers you want other clubs to know about. To publish your club's upcoming events, projects or fundraisers in IMPACT! Fill out [this form](#) with your information and send it to Dave Lenox at DaveRotary5500@gmail.com by Friday for the following week's newsletter. Include your photo or graphic as a separate attachment as a jpg or png file.

NEW in IMPACT! You may have noticed a new section of IMPACT! that highlights club projects. We decided that rather than hold those stories for **ROTARY IN ACTION!** (Previously, a Quarterly newsletter designed to SHOWCASE YOUR CLUB'S PAST PROJECTS & FUNDRAISERS!) we want to encourage you to share your successes and great ideas so others can see your great work and maybe steal an idea or two! This will also provide you with a record of them in our archives. The same form from above will work just fine. Send it to DaveRotary5500@gmail.com. **Don't forget to include photos -- the more the merrier!**