

# Vocational Service Ideas

---

*One of the central goals of Vocational Service is to promote and advance Rotary's high ethical standards. Two useful tools Rotarians have to assess these standards are The Four-Way Test and The Declaration of Rotarians in Business and Professions.*

## **Potential Club Activities – Did your Club:**

1. Sponsor a Four-Way Test essay or speech competition for young people within the past 12 months?
2. Get actively involved in providing career information for local school students within the past 12 months?
3. Have four or more meetings devoted to vocational service topics during the current Rotary year?
4. Use classification talks by club members for at least three club meeting programs during the year?
5. Recognize the importance of high ethical standards and public values by giving an award, within the past 12 months, to honor an individual who exemplifies such traits?
6. Recognize the importance of high ethical standards and public values by giving an award, within the past 12 months, to honor a business or other organization that actively promotes such traits?
7. Develop or initiate a new vocational service project during the current Rotary year?
8. Routinely provide a copy of The Four- Way Test and the Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions to all new club members as they join the club?
9. Observe Vocational Service Month in October of 2010 with a special club program or other event?
10. Promote Rotary's commitment to high ethical standards.
11. Post the Four-Way Test on a prominent billboard in your community.
12. Sponsor an essay contest in which participants describe how they can apply The FourWay Test to their lives. This could be for both youths and adults.
13. Sponsor a "character literacy" project for young children that integrates lessons about ethics with children's reading activities. For additional information, contact the RI Literacy Resource Group at [www.rotary.org/literacy](http://www.rotary.org/literacy).
14. Conduct a RYLA event with special emphasis on ethics.
15. Organize a discussion or group workshop on maintaining high ethical standards in the workplace and consider inviting local non-Rotarian business leaders to attend.
16. Recognize and promote the value of all useful occupations
17. Did you
  - a. Display The Four-Way Test and/or the Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions in your office or work space and use it as a conversation starter to tell your colleagues about Rotary's commitment to business ethics and personal integrity.
  - b. Demonstrate a personal commitment to high ethical standards.
  - c. Encourage your club members to post their business on the FREE District Yellow Pages
  - d. Encourage your members to post jobs and resumes on the district job bank.
  - e. Support job search and professional training for members at the district level.
  - f. Support professional development
  - g. Hold informal professional networking events where members can meet other local professionals and introduce them to Rotary.
  - h. Start a career counseling program geared towards equipping unemployed or underemployed members with the skills they need to compete in the job market.
  - i. Volunteer your vocational Services

## **Several of RI's programs offer opportunities to exercise Vocational Service, including:**

- Rotary Volunteers: put your vocational talents to work on a service project
- Rotary Fellowships: start or join a vocational fellowship group
- RYLA: teach young people leadership skills
- Rotary Friendship Exchange: conduct vocational exchanges with Rotarians in other parts of the world

## **Project Ideas**

- Classification talks at club meetings
- Tours of members' businesses
- Community career fairs and workshops
- Mentor young people
- Promote ethical behavior in business
- Create a vocational award program

## **Four Ways to think about Vocational Service:**

### **1. Vocational Awareness**

- Tours of member businesses
- Visits to other local business for education and recruitment
- Job talks by members and vocational guests (doctors, plumbers, etc)
- Creation of local business discussion groups based on issues of interest - workers comp, regulation, pension, etc
- Business breakfasts (e.g. rotary hosts chamber breakfasts)
- Jobs Bank
- Free Yellow Pages

### **2. Vocational Awards**

- Recognize local businesses
- Business of the year
- Unsung heroes within the business community
- Pride of workmanship award
- Best Human resource workplace practices
- Best customer service award,

### **3. Career Development**

- Career Fair
- Job Interview Practice
- Mentoring mothers to return to the workplace
- Job skills training and information
- Job Shadowing
- Educating Kids about Money and work

### **4. Vocations at work**

- Adult Literacy
- Writing skills
- Ethics/Integrity

- 4 way test
- Ethics debates and ethics panels among business owners
- Opportunities for the disabled
- Working with Retirees
- Assisting employees - drugs, HIV, job bank
- Professional Development

### **2011-12 ChangeMaker Award**

- More than 50 percent of club members are active in vocational service projects and activities.
- All club members display the Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions at their workplaces.
- Conduct a career counseling or vocational training program in the community.
- Conduct a program to recognize high ethical standards and public values in the community
- Promote The Four-Way Test to New Generations programs in at least three educational institutions.
- Organize at least one professional networking event in which club members can meet other local professionals and introduce them to Rotary.
- Sponsor a career day in which club members bring young people to their places of business to inform them about career opportunities.