



## ROTARY YOUTH PROTECTION

To:      Governors  
         Interact Chairs  
         RYLA Chairs  
         Youth Exchange Chairs  
         Youth Protection Officers

Dear 2021-22 Rotary District Leaders,

We want to make sure you are aware of the latest youth protection resources. As you work to engage young people in service and leadership development through Rotary's structured programs, including Interact, RYLA, and Rotary Youth Exchange, or other activities involving youth, make sure that all of your volunteers and program participants are aware of these resources and your commitment to ensuring a safe and inclusive experience.

### **Rotary's 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 ([RCOP 2.120.1.](#))

### **Individuals Prohibited from Working with Youth or Rotary Membership Report**

Rotary's policies mandate that any individual against whom there is an allegation of abuse or harassment must be removed from contact with youth in a Rotary context until the matter is resolved ([RCOP 2.120.2.8.](#)) If the individual is found guilty, convicted of, or otherwise known to have engaged in abuse or harassment, they will be permanently prohibited from working with youth and prohibited from membership in Rotary, including both active and honorary club membership, and participation in activities like Fellowships or Rotary Action Groups as a non-member ([RCOP 2.120.2.9.](#))

As part of your role as a district leader, you will soon have special access to a report of those individuals in your district who are prohibited from working with youth in Rotary or prohibited from Rotary membership. You will use this report as part of your process for keeping confidential records, and only share this information with those individuals deemed necessary to enforce these prohibitions. This report will meet [Rotary's Privacy](#)

[Policy](#), as well as GDPR requirements. More information will be communicated to you soon.

### **Rotary Youth Protection Webpage**

Rotary now has a dedicated webpage to support the protection of youth across all Rotary programs and activities. Visit the [Youth Protection webpage](#) to learn more about Rotary's approach to preventing abuse, download youth protection resources, and better understand how to partner with other youth-serving organizations in your area. You can also learn how Rotary members, youth program participants, and the general public can [report youth protection concerns online](#).

### **Upcoming Webinar: Youth Protection at Rotary**

Join Rotary staff on 6 October 2021 at 09:00 CDT (UTC-06:00) to learn more about Rotary's youth protection resources, how to securely report a youth protection concern online, and how Rotary International supports clubs, districts, and participants when we receive a report of a youth protection concern. This webinar will be available in English only, and a recording will be made available for those unable to attend live. [Register now](#).

Please note that sexual abuse and harassment can be sensitive subjects that not everyone is comfortable discussing, whether for personal, professional, cultural, or other reasons. We hope that by providing you guidance and resources, we can support you through what can often be a difficult experience for everyone involved.

Please reach out to [youthprotection@rotary.org](mailto:youthprotection@rotary.org) with any questions. We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to Rotary's zero-tolerance policy against youth abuse and harassment.

Sincerely,

Rotary Youth Protection  
[youthprotection@rotary.org](mailto:youthprotection@rotary.org)

ONE ROTARY CENTER  
1560 SHERMAN AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 30201-3698 USA  
ROTARY.ORG