

ROTARY DISTRICT ENVIROCLUB AWARDS

Dr. Christopher F. Puttock, District Environment Committee Chair; ESRAG Chair 2019-2021

Many environmental problems are facing the world today: loss of biodiversity and habitat degradation; water, food, and energy insecurity; waste management and pollution leading to global warming/climate change.

The EnviroClub Awards Program is a progressive criteria-based system where a club first works for a "Bronze" Award before progressing to a "Silver" Award and finally a "Gold" Award. The EnviroClub Award recognition is available to any Rotary, Rotaract, or Interact Club in the District.

Basic criteria for recognition for an EnviroClub Award are as follows:

1. A club has an Environmental Committee and Chair, or a key person in another Committee, such as their Service Committee who holds the title of Environmental Officer.

2. There are no specific environmental projects in which a Club must participate for any level of Award. The objectives are to:

- Recognize existing or beginning environmental initiatives* (Bronze)
- Encourage further development of their environmental initiatives (Silver)
- Develop new more challenging environmental initiatives (Gold)

3. Environmental projects can span many avenues of service, such as Community Service, International Service, and Youth Service.

4. The EnviroClub recognition is an annual award. It is progressive designed to advance yearly, starting with a Bronze Award and moving towards Silver and Gold Awards.

The application form for the EnviroClub Awards will be available on the website on January 1, 2021 or soon after.

The closing date for applications will be 23:59pm ET, March 31, 2021. Applications for an EnviroClub Award are forwarded to the District

Environmental Sustainability Officer (DESO) who reviews the submission with members of the District Environment Committee (with input from the District Governor, Assistant Governors or District Chairs, as appointed). The final decision to approve the award is made by the District Governor. The District Governor will present a certificate to each club that meets the requirements for an Award at either a club meeting, a District event, or District Conference.

Separately, individual Rotarians are also encouraged to be catalysts for environmental action in their communities. Should a person emerge as an Environmental Champion for the District, that person may be acknowledged by the District Governor. This award is for outstanding merit and may not be awarded annually.

*Initiatives are activities, events, projects, or programs.

For more information:

Contact: Dr. Christopher F. Puttock
Chair District 7620 Environment Committee

Mobile: 202-262-9773

Email: christopher.puttock@gmail.com

CONNECT WITH ROTARY'S SERVICE PARTNERS

By Kiki Melonides, DISC Rotary Service & Engagement

Rotary's service and project partners are finding creative ways to connect while gathering in person is difficult. Look at what they're doing and get inspired.

Ashoka: The organization is supporting social entrepreneurs in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America who have innovative approaches to the COVID-19 crisis. Changemakers United has grown into a global coordinated effort connecting social

innovators and leaders from business and philanthropy. Ashoka offers regionally organized virtual events for innovators.

Habitat for Humanity: The housing nonprofit has continued its mission in the midst of COVID-19, making strides in advocacy, microfinancing, and community reinvestment. Its +You series brings together experts from around the world for streaming events to discuss significant issues in housing, including housing and health, the effect of the pandemic on low-income families, racial inequity in housing, and more.

Mediators Beyond Borders International:

MBBI is encouraging people to understand that global problems require collaboration, creative problem solving, and consensus-building. It believes now is a critical time for people to use communication and empathy to reduce prejudices and stay connected. Learn how to facilitate these conversations in your community with the town hall resource guide and other online resources.

Peace Corps: Rotary members who have also served in the Peace Corps can help the agency celebrate its 60th anniversary by sharing their Peace Corps experience. The Through the Decades series honors the legacy, volunteers, and the communities that have been served. Help represent your decade and share a story and images about your experience as a volunteer, supporter, or host community leader or member.

ShelterBox: The organization is working alongside Rotary and Rotaract clubs to respond to emergency shelter needs around the world, including those caused by severe weather in the Philippines and hurricanes that battered Central America. ShelterBox has adapted and scaled its response during the pandemic while continuing to work with local partners. Learn more from its weekly virtual updates.