

TWIN CLUB PROGRAM

Twin clubs are two clubs from different countries that have established strong ties and have agreed to team up to complete a special program, be it an international service project, Rotary Youth Exchange, or Friendship Exchange.

Goals

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

Program Criteria

- ◆ Clubs must be from two different countries, preferably from different continents.
- ◆ Program must involve personal participation of Rotarians.
- ◆ Clubs should report their informal Twin Club relationship to D5010 Service Projects chairs Jon Deisher (Alaska/Yukon) and Olga Shmorgun (Russia)

Determining Club Compatibility

Finding a suitable partner should be a club effort. The concerns and opinions of every club member must be taken into account if the match is to be successful. In the search for a partner, clubs should first be able to clearly identify their interests, strengths, and weaknesses. A brief summary of the club should be written up for potential postings and future correspondence. When selecting a partner, clubs may want to consider clubs that:

- ◆ Hold similar interests
- ◆ Have faced similar problems
- ◆ Possess expertise in an area that their club would like to improve
- ◆ Are located in a geographical region of interest to club members
- ◆ Have the same name in the RI *Official Directory* (for example: the Rotary Club of San Jose, California, USA, and the Rotary Club of San Jose, Costa Rica)
- ◆ Have innovative ideas for building your twin club relationship

Finding a Partner

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

- ◆ Contact your district governor or a past governor
- ◆ Capitalize on an established sister-city relationship – Sister Cities International (www.sister-cities.org)
- ◆ Register on the Seek-a-Sister portion of the Rotarians on the Internet (ROTI) Web site (www.roti.org/sisters2.htm)

Establishing a Relationship

Careful planning and clear communication is essential to establishing a strong relationship. Like any other worthwhile project, Twin Club programs take time and effort. Ensuring that each club has a clear understanding of its role and responsibilities in the partnership is key. To formalize the Twin Club relationship, clubs may wish to sign a simple letter of agreement, which outlines the goals and length of the partnership. Some ideas for developing a strong relationship include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Undertake an international service project
- ◆ Participate in a Rotary Friendship or Youth Exchange
- ◆ Plan and hold an international projects fair
- ◆ Organize a RYLA event
- ◆ Exchange project ideas or club program ideas
- ◆ Hold a video conference club meeting
- ◆ Capitalize on visits by Rotarians who may be traveling
- ◆ Exchange handicrafts and local products
- ◆ Use your imagination and come up with innovative ideas for building your twin club relationship