

Good Morning,

As promised, I am following up with you about Rotary Interact Club development. There were so many inquiries at RYLA I am thrilled to say that it took me a while to make up this e-mail list!

First, thank you all for doing such a great job at RYLA! You were just an amazing group of people, and your ideas, energy and enthusiasm were contagious. Having a group like yours makes all of us volunteers want to do a great job next year. You have the power to make the world a better place and you have already begun.

Interact is another way you might consider helping Rotary achieve world peace, one person at a time. I have told you a bit about the Marlborough High School Interact Club, and you are welcome to come and visit once school starts. If you have an Interact Club, the Marlborough Club could partner with you if even for a brief visit. If you want to start a club, go to <http://www.rotary.org/programs/interact/index.html> or [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and click on Programs, then Interact. There you will find history, related articles and the How To's of starting and having an Interact Club.

We have found that it is more fun to work with you, the students who are interested, and then find partners in your clubs who will support you in establishing a high school program. We have also learned to be flexible in the administration of each club, as each is unique. So, if you have the will to get going, we can help! I am available (at least, by telephone) to work with you and your local Rotary Club and High School to see if there is enough momentum for Interact. You will need permission, and an advisor, probably a teacher. Then, it will be up to you to attract members (ice cream and cookies help), establish officers, develop a meeting schedule and come up with one international project and one local community service project each year. At Marlborough High School, the Interact year goes from approximately October 1 until April 30<sup>th</sup>. This may be amended according to your advisor's and your school's schedule. Technically, anyone over the age of 14 can join; our high school has had 8<sup>th</sup> graders, some of whom weren't quite 14 yet but have made terrific Interactors! Our projects included purchase of a Shelter Box, food pantry food drives, helping with Polio Plus and other projects. They sometimes work alone or with other school clubs. Fundraising is part of the fun; within limits, you get to decide how and what you do.

That's it for now. Your job is to check to see if there is already an Interact Club at your school (often a well-kept secret!) If so, please join! If not, get the name and a telephone number of your superintendent and your principal, and if you can, a Rotary Club contact (or e-mail me, and I can track one down). After that, expect at least one or two telephone calls and possibly a meeting...

I hope to hear some Interact "buzz" between now and September. Meanwhile, have a wonderful summer, and an especially happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July, too. All good wishes to you, and congratulations on having had a successful experience at RYLA. The best is yet to come for you all, so enjoy!

Sincerely,

Bonnie Doolin, Marlborough Rotary Club Member/Volunteer