



Fact Sheet YSA (Youth Service America) and Rotary International

What is the purpose of this service partnership?

The service partnership between YSA (Youth Service America) and Rotary International (RI) provides a way to share opportunities and expertise to promote youth service worldwide. A service partner agreement between the two organizations was signed in 2012. Rotary, Interact, and Rotaract clubs and districts are encouraged to utilize YSA resources, participate in YSA activities such as Global Youth Service Day, and contribute their experience and efforts to increase the impact of service by youth.

What is YSA?

Founded in 1986, YSA is a resource center dedicated to engaging youth, ages 5-25, as partners in solving the problems of the world. More than any generation in history, youth are addressing challenges that are stifling economic and human potential, such as environmental degradation, hunger, illiteracy, water scarcity, human rights, and communicable diseases. YSA's goals are to educate youth, teachers, community organizations, media, and public officials in the power of youth as problem solvers and to engage youth as volunteers, as academic achievers, and as community leaders. To achieve this, YSA provides frameworks, resources, grants, and enrichment tools and has partnered with hundreds of organizations in over 100 countries.

How can my club or district get involved?

RI encourages Interact and Rotaract clubs to participate in Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), 20-22 April 2012. Established in 1988, GYSD is an annual campaign that mobilizes millions of youth to improve their communities through service and service learning. GYSD is the largest service event in the world, celebrated each year in over 100 countries on 6 continents. Be sure to spread the word through club and district e-mails, e-newsletters, websites, press releases, and social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Future GYSDs will be held on 26-28 April 2013 and 11-13April 2014.

In addition, YSA has numerous resources (listed below) to help enhance and support Interact and Rotaract club projects, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) events, and other youth service activities undertaken during the rest of the year.

How can this partnership be promoted?

Rotary, Interact, and Rotaract clubs and districts can promote this important partnership at Rotary gatherings and meetings with other interested groups such as high schools and universities. To demonstrate Rotary's global participation in Global Youth Service Day, Interact and Rotaract clubs and districts are encouraged to register their projects with YSA at www.gysd.org/register. Be sure to select Rotary (located under "national and global partners" in the dropdown list) as your partner organization.

RI also encourages Interactors and Rotaractors to share their successful GYSD projects with RI staff by e-mailing programs@rotary.org. These success stories may be used as model projects in Rotary's ProjectLINK database (www.rotary.org/projectlink) or publicized in RI publications.

What support is available from YSA?

Suggestions for possible Global Youth Service Day projects can be found at www.gysd.org/ideas. A toolkit to help organize and plan a high quality GYSD project and poster promoting the event can be downloaded from www.ysa.org/resources or ordered at no cost from www.ysa.org/resources/request. Be sure to visit the Global Youth Service Day Facebook page or follow @GYSD on Twitter to share your service ideas, experiences, and inspiration.

YSA's website at www.ysa.org offers publications on a variety of topics such as engaging at-risk youth in service, creating inclusive and accessible days of service, strategy guide and planning calendar for school-based youth, environmental service learning projects, and malaria prevention, awareness, and fundraising. These materials are available for download free of charge. There are also grant opportunities at www.ysa.org/grants for individuals and clubs engaged in youth service in the United States and Latin America. In addition to the latest news and resources, YSA's e-newsletter provides a calendar of upcoming training events, conferences, and webinars on youth service, service learning, and mentoring.

Additional Resources

Interact Handbook (654)

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en pdf/654en.pdf

Rotaract Handbook (562)

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en pdf/562en.pdf

RYLA Handbook (694)

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/694en.pdf

Rotary's Areas of Focus (965)

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en pdf/965en.pdf

Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects (605A)

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en pdf/605a en.pdf

Community Assessment Tools (605C)

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/605c_en.pdf

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