



# CENTENNIAL TWIN CLUB PROGRAM

Rotary International will be celebrating 100 years of service in the year 2005. As part of that celebration, Rotary clubs are invited to participate in the Rotary Centennial 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. Clubs that already have twin relationships are invited to register as part of this Rotary Centennial activity and are encouraged to undertake a new joint program or project in honor of the centennial.

## 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 must report their informal Twin Club relationship by 1 December 2004 via the Rotary Centennial Web site at [www.rotary.org/centennial/activities](http://www.rotary.org/centennial/activities) (forms will be available online in March 2003).

## 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 a common language or resources for translation/interpretation

## 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:

- ◆ Sign up on the Rotary Centennial Web site at [www.rotary.org/centennial/activities](http://www.rotary.org/centennial/activities) (forms will be available online in March 2003)
- ◆ Contact your district governor or a past governor

- ◆ Drop by the Networking Area in the House of Friendship at the RI Convention
- ◆ Attend other international Rotary meetings such as Presidential Conferences
- ◆ Frequent Project Fairs sponsored by Rotarians in various parts of the world
- ◆ Search the *World Community Service Projects Exchange* ([www.rotary.org/programs/wcs/projexch/database.html](http://www.rotary.org/programs/wcs/projexch/database.html))
- ◆ Capitalize on an established sister-city relationship — Sister Cities International ([www.sister-cities.org](http://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](http://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.

### **Reporting Your Twin Club Relationship to RI**

Reporting Twin Club relationships to RI is essential so that RI is able to quantify how many clubs are involved, to identify the variety of programs undertaken, and to recognize clubs for their accomplishments in Rotary publications and on RI's Web site. Clubs that have established a Twin Club relationship should complete a report form via the Rotary Centennial Web site at [www.rotary.org/centennial/activities](http://www.rotary.org/centennial/activities) (forms will be available online in March 2003).

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