

## **Rotary-Toastmasters Alliance FAQ**

### **What is Toastmasters?**

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. It has more than 358,000 members in 16,800 clubs in 143 countries.

As with Rotary, the club is the foundation of the Toastmasters experience. Its clubs offer a supportive and positive environment where members practice their skills and evaluate others to become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders. Most clubs are open to the community, have about 20 members, and meet each week or every two weeks for an hour or two.

### **Why are Rotary and Toastmasters working together?**

Rotary and Toastmasters both want to offer our members the best experience possible.

Collaborating with Toastmasters will provide Rotary and Rotaract members with even more opportunities for development by improving their leadership and communication skills. These opportunities can help Rotary clubs meet their members' desire for personal and professional growth, become more attractive to prospective members, and become more diverse. It's another chance to establish fellowship and connections, build stronger clubs, and ultimately increase our impact.

Working with Rotary will allow Toastmasters members to apply the leadership and communications skills they've developed, connect with more people, take advantage of new speaking and learning opportunities, and make a difference in their communities.

### **How can my club collaborate with Toastmasters?**

You can:

- [Learn more](#) about Toastmasters or [visit a local Toastmasters club](#)
- Ask a member of Toastmasters to speak at one of your club's meetings or participate in a service activity
- Invite Toastmasters members to visit your club to learn more about Rotary
- Consider holding a joint Toastmasters and Rotary meeting

The goal of this collaboration is to leverage our organizations' strengths: Rotary members are experts at making connections and serving communities, while Toastmasters helps its members become more effective leaders and communicators.

### **What if there isn't a Toastmasters club near me? How can my club get involved?**

Toastmasters has more than 16,800 clubs in 143 countries. If there isn't a club in your community, you can still get involved by [learning](#) about Toastmasters or exploring its [resources](#), [tips](#), and [podcasts](#) on public speaking. You can also encourage your members' professional growth by offering leadership development opportunities in your clubs or districts — by setting up a mentorship program, for example.

As part of our collaboration, Toastmasters will create a leadership development program for Rotary and Rotaract members. When the curriculum is available, you can take courses to improve your public speaking and leadership skills even if you don't have a Toastmasters club nearby.

### **Do Toastmasters clubs know about this alliance?**

Toastmasters International has told its district leaders that we're working together. But it's possible you could try to connect with a Toastmasters club and find that it hasn't yet heard about our alliance. If that happens, you can share what you know (perhaps even sending them this FAQ), or direct them to the Toastmasters site for more information.

Remember that, much like Rotary clubs, Toastmasters clubs are autonomous and determine their own activities and priorities to reflect their members' interests and the community's needs. If a Rotary, Rotaract, or Toastmaster club doesn't have the capacity or interest in working together, there may be another club nearby that would be a better fit.

### **Can Rotarians also be members of Toastmasters?**

You absolutely can be a member of both organizations.

### **What if we lose members to Toastmasters?**

Although our organizations are similar in many ways, the experiences we offer members are distinct. Our members joined Rotary and Rotaract to make a difference and make connections. Toastmasters excels at building leadership and communication skills. Our organizations complement one another; we are not competitors.

If Rotary or Rotaract members want to join Toastmasters or Toastmasters members want to join Rotary or Rotaract, they are very welcome.

### **Is there a discount for Rotarians or Rotaractors who want to join Toastmasters, or for Toastmasters members who want to join Rotary or Rotaract?**

Not at this time.

### **When will the leadership development program and curriculum be available?**

The program is still being developed. It will rely on independent study, feedback from peers, self-assessment, and reflection in order to develop your leadership and communication skills.

The program will be available in English to our members, including Rotaractors, in 2020. We'll gather feedback and release it in additional languages in 2021. We'll provide updates when we have more details.