

Rotary Club of Clearwater East, Clearwater Florida Prospective Member General Information

In answer to some questions you might have concerning joining our Rotary club I thought I'd try to provide a little general information.

First, you are invited to join our club if you feel that it would be a 'good fit' for you. Only you can make that decision. If you decide you'd like to join, just let us know and we will follow up from there.

Steps:

1. We must submit your name as a proposed member.
2. Your name is published in our weekly eSparkler, our newsletter, for two weeks to gain other member's input if any. (Normally there isn't any input.)
3. Your membership is voted on by the board at their next meeting. (This can be an email meeting solely to move your membership application process forward.)
4. You are inducted to the club with a "Red Badge". Anyone attending our meeting will notice that we all wear a badge containing our name and business classification.
5. You earn your "Blue Badge" by doing the following three tasks:
 - a. Attend a board meeting
 - b. Perform as a "greeter" or sell 50/50 tickets at the door for three meetings.
 - c. Give a 5 minute bio at a club meeting.

You will also be provided a Rotary Information session, during which, there is a discussion of the costs associated with being a Rotarian. You'll receive a much better overview but you should be aware of the approximate cost of being a Rotarian while you are in the process of making a membership decision. As preliminary information, you'd be billed approximately \$200 per quarter. That consists of \$50 quarterly dues and the balance \$14/meeting lunch charge. The total each quarter may vary depending on the number of meetings in that quarter. There are other expenses as the year goes on. There are always activities where contributions are appreciated; there is a program called **Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY)** where it is suggested that \$100/year be donated to a Rotary International fund; we have a monthly food drive for HEP (Homeless Emergency Project) and many people bring food items for that drive; we have annual fundraisers which may account for a few hundred dollars more.

Perhaps more than anything else, our club tries to be very active in "hands on" programs. "Sweat Equity" comes into play with those projects. We can never have too much help with club projects and they are open to Rotarians, their families and friends. Our "Grace House Project" is an annual event, where we clean, paint and furnish an apartment at the Grace House homeless shelter in Clearwater. Another example is the Letter Carriers' food drive where we sort food items donated by the general public. The Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" takes on special meaning when you roll up your sleeves, get your hands dirty, and help someone in need of assistance. Seeing the direct fruits of your labor in one of our projects provides, to many of us, the very best reason to consider membership in Rotary and membership in our club.