

FIRST COAST ROTARACT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

First
Coast
service above self



What is a Rotaract Club?

Rotaract is a service organization for young adults and is sponsored by Rotary International, which is the largest service organization in the world. There are over 9,500 Rotaract clubs with almost 220,000 members. Clubs are located in North America, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. Clubs are either university-based or community-based. Clubs focus on community service projects, but are also involved in international projects and the professional development of its members.

What is the First Coast Rotaract Club?

The First Coast Rotaract Club (formerly the Rotaract Club of Florida's First Coast) was formed in 1990 through the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville. It is a community-based club that draws its membership from the entire First Coast area. The club was voted the best Rotaract club in the entire region encompassing the United States, Canada and the Caribbean for the year 1993/1994. The club focuses to better the surrounding Jacksonville community that its members call home. First Coast Rotaract's annual marquee event is the Black Tie and Blue Jeans Gala, soon to be in its 12th year. Over the past 11 years, the Gala has raised over \$150,000 for various local charities such as the Ronald McDonald House, Big Fun Box, and JLG Brain Cancer Foundation.

What are the qualifications for membership? What is the "typical" profile of a Rotaractor?

Applicants must subscribe to high ethical standards and be interested in serving the community. The minimum age for entry is 18, but given that the club is community-based, our members are usually post-graduates. The maximum age for entry is 32, however, membership is extended until June 30th following a member's 35th birthday. Typically, our members range in age from about 23-32.

Members are frequently active in the community prior to joining Rotaract. Typically, members are very interested in advancing their chosen career and their personal professional development. Individuals who are interested in current events in the community and who have a high energy level are usually attracted to Rotaract. Rotaractors also enjoy socials, networking and having fun. This is an organization for the "doers" and ambitious young professionals of Jacksonville!

How do I join Rotaract?

Individuals must attend at least two club meetings and a service event (held monthly) prior to submitting an application. This allows guests to get a feel for our club and members, and be sure First Coast Rotaract is a good fit. Individuals then complete an application and submit it to the Vice President for consideration by the board for membership. An initiation fee of \$15.00 is also required at the time the application is submitted.

What are the club dues and why are they necessary?

Dues are \$100.00 annually payable in advance at the beginning of our fiscal year (typically August). Dues are required to maintain the club's functions. An annual Rotaract budget covers items such as maintenance and administrative costs, club socials, lunches at service events, and meeting costs.

When and where does the Rotaract Club meet?

The club meets the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at River City Brewing Company, 835 Museum Circle, near the MOSH. There is a social/happy hour starting at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs bar, then from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. the meeting moves upstairs for club business and our speaker.

Does the club have a dress code for its meetings?

No. However, most members come straight from their jobs to the meetings wearing their business attire. Please feel comfortable coming dressed as you are.

What is a typical Rotaract meeting like?

Meetings are comprised of 15 to 30 minutes for club business including introduction of guests, club administration and upcoming events; then 20 to 30 minutes for the guest speaker including a Q&A session. The remaining time is allotted for "Good and Welfare" which highlights positive events in members' lives, and wrap-up. Following the wrap-up the club adjourns to a restaurant and guests are encouraged to attend to get to know our members a little better. The club president presides over the meetings.

What is the organizational structure of the Rotaract Club?

The club is run by the officers and board members. The elected offices of the club are president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and sergeant-at-arms. Three at-large board members are also elected. Terms of office are for one fiscal year for officers and board members. The immediate-past president also serves on the board. The fiscal year for Rotaract is the same as the Rotary fiscal year - July 1st through June 30.

The club has five standing committees - Club Service, Community Service, International Service, Professional Development and Sports. Each of these committees is headed by a chairperson that reports to the officers and board of the club. Members are encouraged to join and participate in several committees.

In what kinds of projects has the club been involved?

- Annual picnic for Big Brothers - Big Sisters.
- Home construction for Habijax – the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity.
- Participation in Relay for Life-Riverside Chapter
- Volunteers at Best Buddies International Friendship Walk
- Medical Supplies Sort for Rotary METS-Savannah, GA
- River Clean Up with the St. John's River Keeper YP Group Rising Tides
- Annual Clean Up at Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens
- Joint Rotary-Rotaract Food Collection for Children's Home Society Jacksonville

What is the relationship between the First Coast Rotaract Club and the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville?

The Rotary Club organized the Rotaract Club and is responsible for overseeing its administration. Rotary also has final authority over Rotaract's activities. However, the Rotaract Club normally is given free reign to conduct itself within the constitution and by-laws established by Rotary International.

One or more Rotarians often attend the club's regular meetings. Rotaractors are encouraged to attend the Rotary Club's lunch meetings and may do so without a Rotary host. A designated officer of Rotaract is also encouraged to attend the monthly Rotary Club board meetings. Rotaractors are frequently invited to Rotary socials. Rotarians have frequently attended Rotaract's socials and fund-raisers. Rotarians are an excellent resource for providing the Rotaract Club with community contacts, Rotary International contacts and speakers for Rotaract meetings.

"Graduates" of the Rotaract Club may be eligible for Rotary membership, but must meet Rotary's more stringent qualifications and be invited to join. The Rotaract Club has provided many outstanding candidates for Rotary membership in the past.

Who may I contact to get additional information?

Email jaxrotaract@gmail.com

First Coast Rotaract's website <http://firstcoastrotaract.com/>

Contact Mr. Bob Massey, a member of the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville and a founder of the Rotaract Club of Florida's First Coast, at work at 398-6877 or at home at 273-1911.