



"Youth Is Our Future"

Our DG Michel Jazar also believes that with every generation comes the opportunity to reshape the world. It is our opportunity this year to live our Rotarian values and empower the young people so that they can lead us into the future...

This year's youth program was designed to help bridge the gap between generations in Rotary and help empower youth spirit in Rotary district 2452. Below are some ideas and planned activities to help instill a youthful spirit and to further fortify the partnership between Rotary and younger partners.

- ***Rotaract***

According to DRR Jean-Marc Adaimi, this Rotary Year will be a turning point in which we go back in time to preserve our legacy and craft our future. It is time to go "Back to Basics". During this year the DRR's team aims to define the core purpose of serving where all Rotaractors will have the required knowledge and skills to create a stronger base and ensure continuity.

Aligned with the District Governors' theme "Youth is Our Future", the Rotaract District Team in close collaboration with Rotaract District Chair PP Chadi Abi Ghosn and the District New Generation Service Committee, will focus on creating leaders in the Rotaract family by creating strong and effective clubs with solid impact in our societies.

That's why we have been working since day one on providing the necessary tools and expertise for every club to be able to achieve its potential and create future leaders.

As Nelson Mandela once said, "The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow".

- ***Rotary Youth Leadership Award***

District RYLA chair Najah Elias knows that "Strong leaders are made, not born. Leadership principles are learned, not inherited." Leadership is not learned or something you are born into. Leadership is gathering the trust and confidence of others to work for common goals. For leaders to be effective they must learn leadership principles. Through RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award), "Leaders of Tomorrow" have a forum for teamwork, communication, and consensus building in an environment that challenges personal and team responsibilities. Through cabin activities, athletic events, educational workshops, and team building exercises you will learn to work with other leaders in your community to achieve a common goal.

"Youth is our Future" is the District 2452 Theme 2018-19, what better sign that this year the whole district team will be dedicated to helping young people? Therefore, we already have completed one successful Club RYLA Aley entitled "It's All About Youth, Winds of Inspiration" and working hard for a District RYLA from 10 to 13th January 2019 entitled "Building Capacities" and looking forward to more RYLAs in District 2452.

- ***New Generations Service Exchange in District 2452***

New Generations Service Exchange offers young adults the opportunity to realize their strengths while helping others around the world. Under the oversight of District Youth Service committee and the leadership of DG Michel Jazzar and DGE Shawkat Tadros a first exchange is planned between Lebanon and Jordan that will allow to develop highly customized experiences that meet the needs of young adults in our district.

- ***Interact***

Our firsthand experience with Interact Clubs confirms that Interact are the foundation and immediate succession into Rotaract. While, we help bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self, we are investing in the long-term sustainability of Rotary. As Rotary Club sponsors, let us work together to empower Interact Youth by providing mentorship and guidance as they carry out projects, develop leadership skills and gain a global perspective. As district team we are confident that sponsoring an Interact Club will not only challenge Interactors to reach their full potential, it will also energize and inspire your Rotary club while building connections in the community and around the world.

- ***EarlyAct***

The EarlyAct committee is working hard to assist Rotary clubs in creating wide service club for elementary students from ages 7 to 12. While EarlyAct are not an official RI program but the mission and operation of these clubs are closely linked to the ideals of Rotary and it is the district team's belief that it will help provide the foundation and natural succession into Interact. The DG has appointed an EarlyAct Representative, PP Litsa Aresti in Cyprus and Rotarian Samer Slim in Lebanon, to lead this initiative and assist clubs in the formation of new EarlyAct clubs.

- ***Joint Service Events:***

Rotarians are needed to give the young leaders the experience of seeing Rotary in action and invite them to organize a service event to act on an issue that matters in your community. Help align projects with the District Areas of Focus to promote civic education, peace, or improve access to clean water. Did you know that grants can be used to support Rotary's programs for young leaders? District grant eligibility includes Rotaract, RYLA, Interact, and other youth activities. Talk to the leadership team about how district funds can advance these programs, support youth-led service projects, and connect young people to new Rotary opportunities.

While Rotary Clubs will be recognized and rewarded based on innovative actions and achievements in implementing District 2452 theme "Youth Is Our Future", the District Youth and District Theme committees are committed to support all initiatives with the aim to strengthen youth service, engage young people in service to make a difference, and connect young leaders to other Rotary experiences like Interact, Rotaract, RYLA and Youth Exchange. Looking forward to a youthful year.

Ralph Sayah
New Generation District Chair
District 2452

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