

Dear Metro Rotarians,

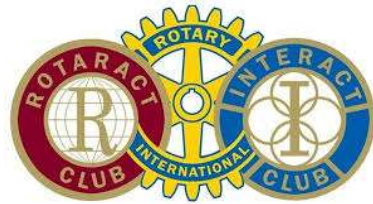
As May arrives, so do graduation plans and exciting new adventures for many of our local youth! It makes sense that May is Youth Service (formerly called New Generations) Month when Rotary Clubs, around the world focus on youth services, Rotaract, Interact, RYLA, Youth Exchange.

Not exactly sure what these four programs are and how Metro is involved? See below 😊

INTERACT

Interact is a Rotary-sponsored service club comprised of 14–18-year-olds. Interact gives young people the opportunity to take part in fun, meaningful service projects. Along the way, Interactors develop their leadership skills and initiative while meeting new friends. Interact strives to promote student leadership, local volunteer service, and to make members aware of the many global and world issues that affect people every day.

Columbia Metro is active with the Interact Club at Battle High School. Sarah Read leads our Youth Services committee and has used our club to provide professional development and leadership training to the Battle students. Most recently, our club received a grant to help Battle install a Peace Pole honoring students involved in gun violence.



ROTARACT

Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young people ages 18-30. Metro continually partners with our local Columbia Rotaract club with service projects and sponsorships as they arise.

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

Rotary Youth Exchange is an excellent and inexpensive way for high school age students to travel and study in a foreign country.

Youth exchange gives the participant the opportunity to improve their language skills and school and family experiences will teach them the culture of their host country. They also act as ambassadors for their home country. Many Metro Rotarians have historically hosted Youth Exchange students in our local community.

RYLA

Each year thousands of young people take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) programs worldwide. Young people are chosen for their leadership potential to attend a camp during the summer. This year Metro is sponsoring four students that will attend RYLA at William Woods University.

*"We cannot talk about our future without talking about our Children. They are our future."
-James L Lacy*

Yours in Rotary,

President Laura Kogut