

## **Rotary-Toastmasters Alliance FAQ**

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About the alliance

### **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 300,000 members in 15,800 clubs in 149 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?**

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

Collaborating with Toastmasters provides Rotary and Rotaract members with even more opportunities for personal and professional development by improving their leadership and communication skills. This can help Rotary clubs meet their members' desire for new learning opportunities, 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 allows 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.

### **Why work with an organization that is focused on improving public speaking?**

For some, public speaking is thrilling; for others, it's terrifying. But being able to express yourself confidently in front of an audience is a learned skill that has immense benefits, personally and professionally, in the office, at the club, and even at home.

Telling our stories and articulating our values is part of personal growth and self-expression. Sharing our stories can inspire others, and build trust, community, and ultimately, peace.

### **How do Toastmasters benefit from an alliance with Rotary?**

By connecting with a local Rotary or Rotaract club, Toastmasters members can find new speaking opportunities, a chance to make new connections, and use their skills to give back to their community.

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

Toastmasters International communicates with its members about the alliance, but it's possible you could try to connect with a Toastmasters club and find that it hasn't yet heard about it. If that happens,

you can share what you know (perhaps even sending them this FAQ), or direct them to the [Toastmasters alliance site](#) for more information.

### **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 members join to improve their 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.

### **I don't want to participate in Toastmasters activities. I'm a member of Rotary, not Toastmasters. I joined Rotary to make a difference, not to become a public speaker.**

Participation in activities related to the alliance is optional.

## [Ways to get involved](#)

### **How can members and clubs get involved?**

You can get involved however you choose, based on your interests. Here are some examples:

- Take a course developed by Toastmasters International to improve your communication or leadership skills
- Ask a local Toastmasters club if you or one of your members could attend their meeting to learn more. [Find a local club](#)
- Ask a Toastmasters club if you can give a speech at their Toastmasters meeting and receive an evaluation
- Ask a Toastmasters member to evaluate a speech you're giving
- Invite Toastmasters members to visit your club to learn more about Rotary
- Invite a Toastmasters member to be a guest speaker at your club. They could talk about Toastmasters or another topic
- Invite a Toastmaster to attend your meeting and offer feedback that could enhance the meeting experience for your members, like improving the way speakers are introduced or how to seamlessly transition the meeting from one agenda topic to the next
- Invite local Toastmasters member to participate in a service activity so they can experience first-hand the impact Rotary has in your community
- Establish a mentorship program between clubs that can be mutually beneficial for your members

- Get your club leaders together to discuss things you have in common, like attracting and engaging members, new member orientation, member satisfaction, or finding next year's leaders, and work together to develop a plan to achieve your goals
- Hold an open house where members of both clubs can socialize and connect

### **What is the role of the district in our alliance with Toastmasters?**

Participation in district collaboration is optional, govern the grassroots nature of our alliance on the local level. Here are some examples of ways districts can collaborate if they choose:

- Promote the leadership development courses to club leaders and members to strengthen their leadership skills
- Collaborate on districtwide initiatives
- Work with Toastmasters counterparts on speaking opportunities at each others' district conferences
- Invite polished Toastmasters speaker to hold a public speaking workshop at your district training events
- Co-host joint events
- Look for opportunities to start new clubs that are focused on leadership development opportunities

### **How do I connect with a Toastmasters club in my area?**

Go to [www.toastmasters.org/find-a-club](http://www.toastmasters.org/find-a-club) to find a Toastmasters club near you. You'll see that many clubs hold virtual meetings and welcome guests.

Note: Toastmasters clubs are a lot alike Rotary clubs in that each club is autonomous and determines its own activities and priorities to reflect their members' interests. If a Toastmaster club doesn't have the capacity or interest in working together, there may be another club that would be a better fit.

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

Toastmasters has more than 15,800 clubs in 149 countries, but there still may not be one near you. The good news is that many clubs are holding their meetings virtually and welcome guests. Use the [Find a club tool](#) to find one you can attend.

Also, getting involved doesn't require the presence of a local Toastmasters club. The leadership and communication courses developed by Toastmasters International are available to Rotarians and Rotaractors on the [Learning Center](#). You can take courses to improve your public speaking and leadership skills even if you don't have a Toastmasters club nearby. Find links to the courses on [Rotary.org/toastmasters](http://Rotary.org/toastmasters).

You can also [learn](#) about Toastmasters and explore its [resources](#), [tips](#), and [podcasts](#) on public speaking.

### **What should I do if the Toastmasters club I reached out to doesn't know anything about the alliance?**

While both Toastmasters International and Rotary International have communicated this alliance to its members, some clubs/members may still be unaware. If that is the case, help spread the word by

sharing the information you have, including the [FAQs](#) and information and additional resources on [rotary.org/toastmasters](http://rotary.org/toastmasters).

### **What are examples of local collaboration?**

We have heard from many members who have shared their stories about working with Toastmasters in their part of the world. [See how clubs are collaborating around the world](#).

### **Can you tell me more about the communication and leadership development courses?**

As part of our alliance, Toastmasters International developed leadership and communication courses for Rotary, which are available in the [Learning Center](#). There are eight robust online courses that incorporate independent study, assignments, feedback from peers, self-assessment, and reflection that develop leadership and communication skills. [Watch](#) this video to learn more about them. You can find the course titles and links on [www.rotary.org/toastmasters](http://www.rotary.org/toastmasters).

### **Our members don't know what the alliance with Toastmasters is about. How has Rotary been communicating to its members?**

We began communicating about the alliance in January 2020, and have shared information online at [rotary.org/toastmasters](http://rotary.org/toastmasters), in The Rotarian magazine, on the Rotary Voices blog, through social media posts, in a press release, in newsletter articles, and in emails sent to club, district, and regional leaders. Communications are ongoing.

### **How do Toastmasters gain service opportunities through the alliance?**

If a Rotary or Rotaract club so chooses, it can invite local Toastmasters to participate in a service activity – the more people who can help give back to our communities the better! Plus, it's a great way to show a Toastmaster exactly how Rotarians and Rotaractors are people of action. Toastmasters can also gain service opportunities by sharing their expertise with Rotary members, whether it's by speaking at a Rotary event, offering a workshop, or otherwise helping others find their voice.

### **Can Rotary clubs or districts invite Toastmasters clubs or districts to participate in fundraisers?**

If an individual Toastmasters member chooses to participate in a Rotary event, it is their personal choice. However, it is against Toastmasters policy to co-sponsor fundraising events. Because Toastmasters is an educational organization, its clubs are not allowed to fundraise for charitable causes, and their name cannot be used in connection with non-educational events.

### **Are Rotarians allowed to ask Toastmasters for donations?**

No. If a Toastmaster attends a club meeting or service project, they are to be treated as guests and, therefore, should not be asked to make any type of contribution. If a Toastmasters member wants to contribute to a cause, they are welcome to, but should not feel pressured.

### **Can we use the co-branded logo for our clubs?**

The co-branded logo is for Rotary International and Toastmasters International use only to indicate initiatives put forth jointly by both organizations. It is neither appropriate nor necessary for clubs or districts to use.

For promoting local events that involve or are hosted by both Rotary and Toastmasters members, follow the [Rotary-Toastmasters Alliance Visual Identity Guidelines](#), and use your club or district Rotary logo instead of Rotary's Masterbrand signature.

### **Can Rotary and Toastmasters hold a joint event?**

Yes. Per the article below from Rotary's Code of Policies, Rotary can't hold joint meetings with other service organizations. Toastmasters is an educational organization.

## **Communication and leadership development courses**

### **What communication and leadership development courses are available?**

The eight online courses developed by Toastmasters International for Rotary members are now available in various languages.

- [Develop a speech](#)
- [Deliver a speech](#)
- [Inspirational speech](#)
- [Interpersonal communication and networking](#)
- [Leadership basics](#)
- [Leading a team](#)
- [Collaboration](#)
- [Building consensus](#)

### **Where can I find the communication and leadership courses?**

You can find all the courses in Rotary's Learning Center in the [Professional Development catalog](#).

### **Is there a cost associated with the courses?**

No. The courses are free to Rotarians and Rotaractors.

### **Who has access to the courses?**

The courses are available to Rotarians and Rotaractors. You must be a registered member of Rotary or Rotaract club (reported by club officers) and have a My Rotary account to access the courses. If you don't have a My Rotary account, use [this guide](#) to set one up. If your club president hasn't reported you as a member, contact [rotaract@rotary.org](mailto:rotaract@rotary.org).

### **Can I access the courses from my mobile phone?**

These courses work best on a personal computer.

### **How are the courses developed by Toastmasters International different from the courses currently offered in the Rotary Learning Center?**

The Toastmasters-developed leadership courses involve independent learning where the learner completes interactive modules and watches videos online to understand concepts, as well as a self-assessment to reflect on their current skills.

There is also an applied learning component where the learner applies the concepts learned in a social setting (for example, by giving a speech, leading a meeting, or introducing a speaker).

Finally, the curriculum consists of peer evaluation and feedback. This part is important because it personalizes the support, development, and training for members, and allows for a participatory approach to learning that is fundamental to retention.

This is a new experience for our members, who are not necessarily used to courses that require actions outside of the online experience, but this blended learning approach is what makes the courses so effective.

[Watch](#) this video to learn more.

**Are the courses offered to Rotarians and Rotaractors different than what Toastmasters members have access to?**

The courses developed for Rotary are based on the Toastmasters' Pathways curriculum, but they are not the same. These courses are being created specifically for Rotary.

**If a Rotarian chooses to join Toastmasters, does the work completed within the Rotary communication and leadership development courses transfer to Pathways?**

No. If a Rotary member joins Toastmasters, they will choose a Toastmasters Pathway and take that curriculum, just like any other Toastmasters member.