

Rotary Community Corps - a 20-minute presentation

The following is a suggested format to introduce and interest Rotary clubs in sponsoring a Rotary Community Corps. Leaders may wish to use transparencies or PowerPoint to aid in the presentation of the material. The first half outlines the program, provides project examples, and describes steps to organize an RCC. During the second half, engage participants in a structured discussion.

Advance preparation

1. Review the RCC presentation and customize if desired. It can be adapted for presenting to prospective RCC members, as well.
2. Arrange to have an overhead or LCD projector if you decide to use transparencies or PowerPoint (optional).
3. If you wish to distribute RI materials contact RI Order Services (tel.1-847-866-4600), or place an order via the Online Publications Catalog, <http://shop.rotary.org/catalog/>. The following materials provide valuable information on sponsoring an RCC, developing community service projects, and serve as resources for promoting the program:

Rotary Community Corps Handbook (770)

Rotary Community Corps brochure (779)

Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects (605A)

Menu of Service Opportunities (605B)

4. Take a look at the RCC section of the RI website. Program updates are available along with successful project ideas <http://www.rotary.org/programs/rcc/index.html>
5. Review the structured discussion questions.
6. Plan closing remarks.

Sample RCC presentation

10 minutes

(Modification to include local project examples is suggested)

Rotary clubs have a proud history of addressing community problems. A Rotary Community Corps (RCC) is a group of non-Rotarian men and women who share Rotarians' commitment to service and creating a better world for us all. Under the guidance of a sponsoring Rotary Club, dedicated RCC members put their own skills to work to improve the quality of life right in their own community, by spurring long-term economic development and self-sufficiency. By establishing an RCC, community members can help provide long-term solutions to problems that they can implement themselves.

Goals of the Rotary Community Corps program are...

- To encourage individuals to take responsibility for the improvement of their village, neighborhood, or community;
- To recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations;
- To mobilize self-help activities and collective work to improve the quality of life; and
- To encourage the development of human potential to its fullest, within the context of the local culture and community.

The greatest asset of the RCC program is its flexibility. RCCs can be rural or urban, and may comprise an entire village or community, or a smaller group within the community. Today, there are more than 4,400 Rotary Community Corps in some 68 countries sponsored by over 1,800 Rotary Clubs. An estimated 103,000 RCC members are making the world a better place to live, one community at a time.

What is RCC?

- ⇒ Members of the RCC of Hochar, India were solely responsible for the village-wide vaccination of 1,500 cattle during an outbreak of debilitating and fatal diseases in that area. With the support of the Rotary Club of Ranchi North, India, and the local veterinary college, members were trained to vaccinate animals and identify debilitating diseases in cows.
- ⇒ Members of the RCC in Turin, Italy organized a home school project for 100 long-term young patients at the local hospital. The RCC members used donated laptop computers and printers to bring school lessons to bed-ridden children in the hospital
- ⇒ RCC members in Rampanalgas, along with the Rotary Club of Maraval in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, established a program that teaches the unemployed skills in food preservation, pickling, tie-dye clothes design and other crafts. The RCC also took up the challenge of upgrading plumbing and infrastructure services in the village school for long-term improvement of villagers' lives.
- ⇒ In New Zealand, the Rotary Club of Hutt Valley organized an RCC comprised of at-risk youth that worked on beautification projects around the city. The RCC members, including recently released prisoners and unemployed youth, also participated in vocational training courses offered by sponsoring Rotary clubs.
- ⇒ The Rotary Club of Arusha, Tanzania sponsors an RCC that helps provide 60 homeless teenage boys with skills and jobs while at the same time cleaning up the city. With a Rotary Foundation Children's Opportunities Grant, the Rotarians outfitted the boys with uniforms and cleaning equipment. Pairs of boys share rubbish carts, which they are free to use in the afternoon for their own business ventures.

Key steps for sponsoring an RCC

- Form an RCC committee of at least 5 members
- Research similar community programs and identify resources
- Establish strong Rotarian interest to ensure RCC success
- Recruit prospective RCC members and arrange an informational meeting
- Hold organizational meetings to address issues such as community needs, funding, the role of the Rotary club, and RCC policies, constitution, and by-laws
- Charter the Rotary Community Corps
- Develop a mission statement and set realistic goals
- Provide ongoing support and periodic evaluations

Discussion questions

10 minutes

How does an RCC differ from a Rotary club?

What types of organized service opportunities are already available for non-Rotarians in our community?

Who are prospective RCC members we can identify now?

What types of projects could an RCC take on to enhance our community? How can Rotarians work together on these activities?

What are some potential sources of funding?

How many RCCs exist district-wide and what can our Rotary club gather from their experiences?