

# FINDING PEOPLE TO INVITE: A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER EXERCISE



You can find new members by asking people you know, following up on your club's online membership leads, identifying who's missing from your club, cultivating new relationships, and leveraging social media.

Encourage members to invite prospective members to service activities, club meetings, and events so that they can learn how your club works with the community and provides opportunities for friendship and connection. Each club should review its list of membership leads regularly and contact those people. And keep making progress on making your club better reflect your community.

To reach an even broader group of people, work with your public image committee to promote your club's service and social activities on social media. Tagging contacts who may be interested in an event, adding a "join" link on public documents or webpages, and using hashtags strategically are all ways to broaden your reach.

## WHAT YOU'LL GAIN

Identifying prospective members and actively engaging them will help your club:

- Develop a group of potential candidates for membership
- Determine how to introduce prospective members to your club
- Get to know people and what they're looking for so you can meet those needs



Clubs around the world approach member recruitment in very different ways. Customize this exercise to make it appropriate and relevant for your region.

## GETTING ORGANIZED

Set aside time for members to complete the Identifying Prospective Members Worksheet at a club meeting. This exercise generally works best at the beginning of a Rotary year, when annual membership goals have just been set, or in March, when the incoming president is planning for the next year.

## GETTING STARTED

### Step 1: Ask all members to complete the Identifying Prospective Members Worksheet.

Explain the purpose of this exercise and ask club members to fill out the worksheet. Compile the information they provide, along with your club's membership lead candidates, and maintain a list of prospective members.

### Step 2: Make an action plan.

Invite the prospective members to a club meeting, service activity, or social event. If you conducted the diversity assessment, refer to the list of groups you found to be underrepresented in your club and include people from those groups as well. Now you can develop a plan that specifies:

- Who you want to invite, and if you want to do so in small groups
- Who is responsible for inviting each person
- What event they'll be invited to
- How the person responsible will make the invitation
- How they'll follow up with the prospective member after the event

### Step 3: Invite prospective members to a club event.

Invite the people from your list to attend an upcoming service activity or meeting. Or host a special event where they can meet club members and learn about the club in a casual atmosphere. Make them feel welcome by having the club president or another leader greet them personally.



You can use the Manage Membership Leads page of My Rotary to [store information](#) about all your prospective members.



Two of every three prospective members who are referred by a current member join Rotary. If a prospect is interested but can't join your club, you can still help Rotary grow by referring them to another club.

#### Step 4: Follow up with prospective members.

- Ask members who invited guests to contact them and then share their interest or feedback with the club.
- Keep the worksheets and your compiled list for future membership efforts.
- Regularly use the Club Administration area of My Rotary to track membership leads gathered through Rotary's website.
- If you find people who are interested in Rotary and would be good members, but they aren't a good fit for your club, refer them to another club.

#### Want to do other assessments?

[Member Interest Survey](#)

[Diversity Assessment](#)

[Retention Assessment and Analysis](#)

[Member Satisfaction Survey](#)

[Exit Survey](#)

Use the Club Action Plan in appendix 1 to track your membership efforts.



You can also review the [Rotary Research page](#) for a broader understanding of membership trends.

# IDENTIFYING PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WORKSHEET

Think of your contacts, acquaintances, friends, and family members, as well as community residents who might be interested in your club. You don't have to know if they're ready to join Rotary.

After you've listed the names of people who might be interested, circle anyone you think would be a good fit for your club in particular.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Professional contacts

Consider your current and former supervisors and colleagues, acquaintances from professional associations, and people you have done business with recently.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## Service contacts

Consider neighbors, community leaders, and acquaintances who have volunteered with you on Rotary or non-Rotary events or projects.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## Community contacts

Consider other people you know in your community, such as:

- Accountants
- Business consultants
- Civic leaders
- Construction workers
- Dentists
- Entrepreneurs
- Financial managers or planners
- First responders
- Food or beverage industry workers
- Health care workers
- Information technology professionals
- Lawyers
- Local innovators
- Nonprofit professionals
- Nurses or doctors
- Psychologists
- Public relations professionals
- Real estate agents
- Religious leaders
- Sales executives
- School administrators
- Social workers
- Stay-at-home parents
- Teachers or professors
- Veterinarians

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## Rotary contacts

Consider past members or Rotary alumni that you know or that your club maintains contact with. Rotary alumni are people who have participated in:

- Ambassadorial Scholarships
- Interact
- Grants for University Teachers
- Group Study Exchange
- New Generations Service Exchange
- Rotaract (which is now a membership type)
- Rotary Peace Fellowships
- Rotary Scholarships
- Rotary Volunteers
- Rotary Youth Exchange
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
- Vocational training teams

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation or area of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_