

Creating Opportunities for Kids to Practice Good Citizenship: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, service to others, friendship, good will, perseverance, courage, self-discipline, and honesty.

Question #1: Schools and educators play an important part in the development of ethical behaviors. How can Rotary collaborate better with schools to create opportunities for students to practice these behaviors?

Work with schools to involve students in doing a community project to develop a sense of self and instill in students the idea of service to others.

Students do a community service project and then speak on the experience. Best speaker(s) get a scholarship or recognition at school or in local newspaper.

Students do an art project on an International Rotary project like Polio Plus, safe drinking water, mosquito netting, etc. Art project are used to tell the Rotary story.

Breakfast of Champions-20-25 students selected for this breakfast with awards given for 'service above self.'

Pass out dictionaries earlier in the year so teachers can incorporate key concepts like those listed above into dictionary lessons.

Have a district summit meeting to develop a program that teachers could use to foster character building and ethical behavior. (The District recently joined an existing Ethics Initiative program for youth that is available to all in our District. Contact District Ethics Chair Keith Schoenthal for more information at KeithsRotary@gmail.com)

Bring some of the Rotary experiences to the high school level giving high school students an opportunity to volunteer with Rotarians.

Invite key leaders of schools to learn about ethics: doing the 'right' thing, sorting it out, thinking it through, thinking before acting, value what you say, going to the source, and sharing 'positive' comments.

Invite school counselors to become Rotarians.

Offer scholarships for ethical achievement.

Invite school leaders to learn about the Rotary Ethic Initiative.

Question #2: Which players in our communities are currently inspiring in this field and how can we learn from and collaborate with them?

Invite speakers from community to share what they are doing or did for their communities. For example; first responders, food bank personnel, medical personnel, Rotary International volunteers, Polio Plus volunteers, etc.

Rotary to provide mentors who are well versed in non-judgmental sharing of Rotary ethical initiatives/behaviors.

Rotary to create teams for writing curriculum ideas related to ethical behaviors for use in classrooms.

Bring inspiring speakers from Rotary clubs to high schools. Scale speeches/presentations to dynamics for high school listeners.

Invite local citizens with inspiring personal stories to come to speak to students.

Question #3: How can the Four-Way Test be used as a guide for kid's participation on social media?

Four-Way Test is super important.

Have Four-Way Test posters in school classrooms-Four-Way Test contests in elementary schools.

Have students rewrite Four-Way Test in their own words and use student version as a guide for kids on social media.

Give kids Four-Way Test stickers for their cell phones.

Four-Way Test pocket stickers.

Put Four-Way Test stickers in each dictionary that is passed out. Use definitions of selected ethical behaviors for classroom discussions.

Reorder Four-Way Test so that "Is it beneficial to all concerned?" comes first.

Use same generation of students to teach Four-Way Test concepts. Rotary to create training programs for mentors, different age-level student groups, young adults and parents.

Question 3 continued:

Develop student and adult leadership skills and public speaking skills that integrate Four-Way Test with presentations to students-great way to connect with youth.

Anonymity on social media causes most of the problems-easy to be 'nasty' when not face to face. If more kids had a thought process before engaging on social media, things would be better. The problem is clear, the solution is not.

Reverse engineer the Four-Way process-have kids teach parents about the Four-Way test.

Question #4: How can Rotary support the efforts of parents/families in cultivating citizenship behaviors in their children?

Inform parents of citizenship behaviors that schools and Rotary clubs are trying to develop and implement.

Good Act Calendars: Develop a year-long calendar with daily, weekly and monthly goals to achieve related to ethical behaviors that parents want to teach such as honesty, respect, responsibility, service to others, self-discipline, fairness, etc.) Kids to do one good thing each day. This would be a great summer activity for parents and kids.

Scavenger hunt activity with prizes: Who can do the most kind, giving, service to others good acts?

Provide materials to parents and teachers of younger students what focus on the development of self-image as the core idea in the development of ethical behavior. Teach young kids to value themselves before they can begin to value others.

Create a data base for parents, particularly for those parents who are struggling with suggestions on how to discuss and practice ethical behaviors at home.

Hold forums for parents on ways to develop ethical behaviors at home and on social media.

Provide parents with Four-Way Test materials that they could use in their homes. Have parents teach parents how to use materials.

Provide parents with 'good ethical behaviors guidelines' for parents to use with their kids who use social media.

Student developed on versions of the Four-Way tests printed on reusable bags that go between homes and schools.

Question #4 continued:

All school 'no phones day' with guidelines for parents and teachers to follow with activities at school and at home that emphasize the values of face-to-face communications.

Start young at home and at school with 'did you do the "right" thing' concept in talking with kids.

Round-table discussions that include students, parents and educators to talk about communication problems with emphasis on social media related issues.

A Rotary sponsored "Interactive Ethics-Related Field Day at elementary schools.

Develop Four-Way Test activities for middle school students that focus on social media issues.

Rotary shall not infringe on the rights of parents.

Question #5: What are some experiences youth can have in Rotary that can help them practice ethical choices?

(This discussion question turned out different than was intended. There were several exchange students, a few Interact students and a couple of Rotaract members in these two sessions and, in addition to question #5, they had much to say about the structure and relationships of the various youth programs related to the Rotary organization. I hope whoever reads their comments hears what they have to say as it may be one key to the future of Rotary membership.)

Work on the disconnect between Interact and Rotary clubs:

- Stress it is the same organization
- Build connections-strengthen existing ones
- Bring some of the Rotary experience to the high school level
- Give opportunities for students to volunteer directly-have fun

Not clear that Interact and Rotaract are just different components of Rotary International

Don't be afraid to connect the name Rotary with Interact and Rotaract levels. Why different names. These feel separated and not connected to Rotary.

Rebrand Interact and Rotaract so that students feel part of Rotary.

Rotary clubs need to interact more with their Interact clubs-more integration.

Question #5 continued:

Interact clubs need to establish relationships with other Interact clubs.

Rotary clubs need to reach out directly to students-direct signups, not just through Interact.

Interact clubs are so isolated and autonomous that they are isolated.

If there is a RYLA experience for kids, why not something similar for parents?

Have more connections between Rotary Clubs to support and stimulate students to participate in high school Interact and college Rotaract experiences.

Involve Interact and Rotaract regularly involved in Rotary meetings, not just officers of the clubs.

District Interact conference focusing on ethics.

Have Interact students bring parents to a volunteer day so parents can learn about Rotary.

Mentoring programs for students, parents and other resource personnel to connect career and college opportunities.

One-on-one mentor support for high school students.

Encourage students to bring their friends once a month to hear about Rotary projects, work on a community project, or hear an inspiring speaker.

Staying in Touch for Ethical Behavior Effort

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