

ROTAKIDS GUIDE FOR ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS

1. Why Sponsor a RotaKids Club?

Sponsoring a RotaKids club is a strategic investment in the future of Rotary.

- Member Pipeline: Children who begin at age 6–7 become dedicated Interactors by age 12-13.
- Community Visibility: RotaKids projects attract the attention of parents, local media, and public authorities.
- Club Revitalization: Interaction with the enthusiasm of children brings renewed energy to Rotary members.

2. Choosing an Organizational Model

RotaKids sponsorship may be organized by one Rotary Club or by two or more co-sponsoring Rotary Clubs, subject to District approval. A single Rotary Club may sponsor more than one RotaKids club, especially where several schools or community groups are active in the same locality. Similarly, several Rotary Clubs may jointly sponsor one or more RotaKids clubs where this provides stronger mentorship, continuity, funding, or geographic coverage. In all co-sponsorship models, one lead sponsoring Rotary Club should be designated for certification, reporting, safeguarding coordination, financial oversight, and communication with the District.

Depending on your club's resources, you may choose between two structures:

A. School-Based Model - Most Sustainable

- Partnership: The sponsoring Rotary Club, or a group of co-sponsoring Rotary Clubs, collaborates with a local primary school.
- Location: Meetings are held on school premises.
- Leadership: A volunteer teacher (Faculty Advisor) manages day-to-day activities.
- Key Advantage: Day-to-day child protection procedures are administered through the school's existing protocols, under a formal agreement with the sponsoring Rotary Club. The Rotary Club provides mentorship, vision, and oversight that appropriate safeguards are in place.

B. Community-Based Model - Most Flexible

- Partnership: The sponsoring Rotary Club, or a group of co-sponsoring Rotary Clubs, organizes the group independently (e.g., for children of members or from the local neighborhood).
- Location: The Rotary Club premises or community spaces.
- Leadership: A Rotary member (Rotarian Advisor) coordinates the group.

- Responsibility: The sponsoring Rotary Club and District assume responsibility for safeguarding arrangements, adult supervision, insurance, and legal compliance, in accordance with District standards and the applicable laws of the relevant jurisdiction.

3. Steps to Launch (The 5-Step Launch)

1. Appoint a Committee: Designate a "RotaKids Chairman" within the sponsoring Rotary Club. In a co-sponsorship model, the co-sponsoring Rotary Clubs should designate one lead sponsoring Rotary Club and agree on a common coordination structure. A long-term mandate is recommended for continuity.
2. Identify a Partner: Contact a school administration or organize a community group.
3. Information Session: Present the RotaKids values and Pledge to parents and children.
4. Charter Ceremony: The District issues the Official Charter. The first badges are presented (Solid Wheel - Level I).
5. Register on *RotaKids.net*: Add your club to the world map to be visible and to collaborate with other clubs.

4. Mentorship and the Merit System (The Gear of Service)

The role of the sponsoring club is to guide children through the 3 Levels and 9 milestones of the Gear of Service:

- Encouragement: Attend at least one meeting per month, providing continuity of Rotarian presence and mentorship throughout the member's journey.
- Recognition: Organize formal Wheel Loading Ceremonies for the progressive filling of circle markers on the children's badges, marking each milestone achieved through verified volunteer service.
- Transfer: At the appropriate age, ensure a formal Graduation Ceremony marking the transition from RotaKids to the local Interact club, presenting the RotaKids Programme Graduation Certificate and facilitating continuity within the Rotary family.

5. Funding: The Zero-Fee Model

RotaKids is designed to be accessible to everyone:

- No fees to RI and no mandatory child dues: All resources remain at the local level, and no child may be required or expected to contribute financially.
- Self-Funding: Teach children to organize small fundraising projects (lemonade stands, handmade craft fairs).
- Sponsor Support: The Rotary Club is responsible for covering the cost of member badges (under USD 0.50 per unit). Optionally, the Rotary Club may also contribute to the cost of a standard RotaKids uniform (typically a cap and a T-shirt) or other promotional materials, at its own discretion and according to available resources.

6. Digital Resources

The RotaKids digital infrastructure is offered as a foundational asset developed by the pioneers of District 2241. Its current components have different levels of maturity and are subject to RI-approved technical, privacy, safeguarding, and governance review before any official deployment.

- ROTAKIDS.ORG: Public documentation and resolution-support website, including governance documents, templates, and supporting materials.
- ROTAKIDS.NET: World club registry, currently maintained manually by the current administrator, based on identified and verified clubs.
- ROTAKIDS.COM: PHP/HTML prototype reserved for future project, fundraising, or impact-related tools; not an operational MVP and not an official fundraising platform.
- ROTAKIDS.CLUB: Basic reserved presence for future club-level digital tools; not yet an operational platform.