

Rotary Youth

Peace

Conference



Sponsored by the

Rotary Club of Mount Airy
District 7690



Introduction

Thank you very much for your commitment to Rotary and your commitment to service for others. As we approach Martin Luther King's birthday, it is important to remember that Martin Luther King said that "everybody can be great because anybody can serve." We are going to try something new this year in our community. Instead of taking the **day off** on January 15, 2024, we want to be part of community service projects. Instead of taking the day off we want to make a difference in our community by using January 15th as a **day on**. Will you help us?



Overview

Peace is more than the absence of violence - it's creating and sustaining societies that allow all people to flourish. When we create communities where neighbors can thrive socially, emotionally, and economically, we call this Positive Peace. Positive Peace is the active effort to create equitable and resilient societies where all people can reach their potential. When Rotary members put "Service above Self" by volunteering their time and skills, they are investing in their communities and creating a more peaceful society. The following is a list of the eight pillars of positive peace that are necessary to have in place as the foundation in order to build these communities.

- Low levels of corruption
- Acceptance of the rights of others
- Free flow of information
- Sound business environment
- High levels of human capital
- Equitable distribution of resources
- Good relations with neighbors
- Well-functioning government



Purpose

It is important to understand how these eight pillars of Positive Peace relate to our own lives and how we can use them as a compass to provide us with direction to create this kind of world. Responsible world leaders align their vision with these eight pillars of peace. We honor Dr. Martin Luther King as a world leader who embraced these pillars of positive peace. In celebration of his accomplishments, we're honoring Dr. King by having a Rotary Peace Conference where students can come together and address some of the most pressing challenges facing the world today such as poverty, discrimination, and inequality. By fostering dialogues among the students, the conference will help build bridges of understanding and empathy to transform conflict and promote positive change.

Instead of taking the day off on MLK day, we would like to invite you to our Rotary Youth Peace Conference to experience a day “on” by making a difference in your community.



When?

MLK Day 2024 - January 15, 2024

Who?

Members of your Interact Club should have the first opportunity to register. For the first year, 25-30 participants is the suggested number. If you don't get enough Interact members to register, get nominations from high school teachers. Try to get a diverse group of kids.

Where?

Schools are a great place to meet. Just remember, all schools are closed on MLK Day, so make sure you make arrangements with a school administrator to have the building unlocked and the heat turned on.

Choosing a Project

One way to observe Martin Luther King Day as a day of service is to volunteer your time or to participate in service projects in your community. This can be a powerful way to make a difference and to honor Dr. King's commitment to social justice and equality. Some idea for service projects might include:

- Participating in a community clean-up or beautification project
- Volunteering at a local food bank or soup kitchen
- Participating in a blood drive
- Tutoring or mentoring a young person
- Visiting a nursing home or assisting with a community event for seniors
- Planting trees or participating in an environmental conservation project

These are only a few ideas. There are many other ways to get involved and make a difference in your community. The important thing is to take the time to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and to commit to making a positive impact in your community. By using this day as a day of service, you can



help build a more just and equal society as you honor the memory of a great leader.

Organizing your Project

- After you decide on your service project, get in touch with the selected agency and explain how you would like to help them by involving your students in an appropriate service project for their club.
- Make sure you listen to them and find out what you can do that would really help them.
- Make sure you have enough helpers, but not too many. You don't want to overwhelm them.
- Make sure there is enough room for you to do your project and enough supplies. Will they have supplies or do you need to bring your own?
- Sometimes it helps to divide a larger group into several smaller groups. You want to make sure all of your members are engaged in the project and that you don't have students just observing or playing on their cell phones. Go visit the project site before you actually take your group. Go over the service project one more time with their director to clarify exactly what is going to happen. Don't ever assume anything.
- Make sure your students are dressed appropriately for the designated activity.
- Talk to your students ahead of time and make sure they know exactly what they will be doing and why they will be doing it.
- Allow time at the end of the activity to evaluate the project and have them explain why serving others is so important.
- Discuss what was their favorite part about the service project.
- What can they do further to positively impact their community?



Rotary Youth Peace Conference Questions

Interview tapes will be included in a video project that will be presented at a Rotary event. The video will cover what took place at this year's Rotary Youth Peace Conference. Look your best and answer each question with confidence.

Questions for Students

- Why is serving others important?

A: Serving others is important because you should always be kind to other people; you never know what hardships they are facing and just a helping hand could be a real blessing to someone else.

A: Serving others is impacting your neighbors in a positive way, and what really matters in life is the impact you have on other peoples' lives.

A: Serving others is important because kindness breeds kindness. You should treat others the way you want to be treated to create a positive community.

A: Serving others doesn't just make the world a better place, it makes you better too.

- What is positive peace?
- What are the 8 pillars of positive peace?
- What did you do to serve others during the Rotary Peace Conference?
- Do you have an example from your personal life where you realized your privilege or realized how well you have it OR realized someone's lack of privilege and how hard they have it?
- What emotions do you feel when you serve?
- What was your favorite part about the conference/day?



- Did you learn anything new or did something resonate with you from the day of the conference?
- Do you have an example from your personal life of when someone served you? Tell me about that experience. How did it make you feel knowing that others care?
- What can you do further to positively impact your community?



Beginner Guide: Option 1

Step 1: Meet at Location for Local Service Project

- See **Page 6: Choosing a Project**

Step 2: Choose a Peace-Building Activity

- See **Page 7: Organizing your Project**

Step 3: Rejoin Group for Participant Evaluation Questions

- See **Pages 8-9: Rotary Youth Peace Conference Questions**



Intermediate Guide: Option 2

Step 1: Meet at a School/Club Meeting Location

- Peace Circles

Divide the group in half. Put one trained volunteer as the facilitator in charge of each group. Clearly define the rules for student engagement.

- No negative cross-talk
 - Use a talking stick/prompt
 - Promote positive yet critical thinking
- Introduction to Peace Circles
 1. State your name and high school. Of all the opportunities you had today, why did you choose to come here?
 2. Turn to the person on your left. State one word that comes to mind when you think of Peace; go around the circle and each partner tells the other partner's name and word. Record words on chart paper.
 3. Using the words, collectively write a definition of Peace.



- Questions to be used in the Peace Circle
 - Group 1
 1. Low levels of corruption
 - a. What does corruption mean to you?
 - b. Can you think of an example of supply vs demand corruption? Bribery?
 - c. How can corruption be prevented?
 2. Acceptance of the rights of others
 - a. Can you name our inalienable rights?
 - b. Which of these rights is debated the most?
 - c. Are there limits to these rights? When/Why?
 3. Free flow of information
 - a. You've heard the power of information.
 - b. What do you think that means?
 - c. Why is it important that information is freely available?
 - d. Are there instances when information should be restricted?
 - e. CHAT GPT
 - f. How do you know if "information" is accurate?
 4. High levels of human capital
 - a. Human capital is the value of workers and their skills.
 - b. What impacts a person's value to the world?
 - c. What is life-long learning?
 - d. Why is skill training important?
 - e. How is healthy living maintained in our community?
 - f. What services do you have for mental health?



- Group 2
 1. Sound Business environment
 - a. What prevents business from being sound?
 - b. What part did COVID play in businesses?
 - c. What is the Supply Chain?
 - d. What happened to the Supply Chain before and after COVID?
 - e. Why did stores go out of business during COVID?
 - f. Why did people stop working?
 - g. What prevented people from working?
 2. Equitable distribution of resources
 - a. What does equitable mean?
 - b. Does equitable mean equal?
 - c. Do we have extreme wealth and extreme poverty?
 - d. How does perception affect a person's wealth?
 - e. Are women treated equally in the business workplace?
 3. Good relations with neighbors
 - a. What is a neighbor?
 - b. Is Canada or Mexico a neighbor?
 - c. What do we do to help our neighbors?
 - d. How do we help with hurricane/flood relief?
 - e. How do we help people who have lost everything in a fire?
 4. Well-functioning Government
 - a. What are the following and how do they help the community?
 - i. City Hall
 - ii. Public Works
 - iii. Water Filtration
 - iv. Police
 - v. Fire
 - vi. Chamber of Commerce
 - vii. Planning
 - viii. Economic Development



Step 2: Meet at Location for Local Service Project

- See **Page 6: Choosing a Project**

Step 3: Choose a Peace-Building Activity

- See **Page 7: Organizing your Project**

Step 4: Rejoin Group for Participant Evaluation Questions

- See **Pages 8-9: Rotary Youth Peace Conference Questions**



Advanced Guide: Option 3

Step 1: Meet at a School/Club Meeting Location

- See **Page 6: Choosing a Project**

Step 2: Peace Circles

- See **Page 11: Intermediate Guide (Option 2)**

Step 3: Choose a Peace-Building Activity (Local Service Project)

- See **Page 7: Organizing your Project**

Step 4: Visiting Local Government

- A well-functioning government is key to maintaining positive peace.
- If you have participated in the Rotary Peace Conference before, you might want to visit some government offices to see how they contribute to maintaining a well-functioning government in your community.

Step 5: Rejoin Group for Participant Evaluation Questions

- See **Pages 8-9: Rotary Youth Peace Conference Questions**



Timeline

- October
 - Meet with your Rotary Club and your Interact Club to decide if you really want to have a Rotary Peace Conference.
 - You must have buy-in from both groups or this conference will not work.
- November
 - Identify Location for Meeting
 - Identify Peace Building Activity
 - Determine which option you would like to follow
- December
 - All plans for Peace Conference should be formalized before leaving for Christmas vacation
 - Things to Consider:
 - Transportation
 - Group size (preferably 30)
 - Breakfast/Lunch
 - Volunteer training
 - Weather
 - Budget/fundraising/grants
 - School location
 - Travel permission slips and photo permission slips

