



# Rotary

## Service Above Self

‘Service Above Self’ is Rotary’s motto and it exemplifies the spirit of the organization’s 1.2 million members around the world. Rotary International is the world’s first service club organization. In February 1905 Chicago attorney Paul Harris organized the first Rotary meeting formatting The Rotary Club of Chicago. Today, Rotary is made up of over 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

It’s an organization of business and professional leaders who volunteer their time and talents to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service
- High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society
- The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service

Based on the Object of Rotary, the ‘Avenues of Service’ is Rotary’s philosophical cornerstone and the foundation on which club activity is based:

- **Club Service** focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club.
- **Vocational Service** encourages Rotarians to serve others through their vocations and to practice high ethical standards.
- **Community Service** covers the projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in its community

- **International Service** encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary’s humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace.

The individual clubs throughout the world are the cornerstone of Rotary – where the most meaningful work is carried out. Rotary clubs are responsible for four key elements: sustaining or increasing club membership, service project participation, support of the Rotary Foundation, and the development of leaders to service Rotary beyond club level.

The Valdez Rotary club is approximately 30 members strong and includes a variety of business professionals and community leaders. Attendance at weekly club meetings each Tuesday at noon allows members to enjoy fellowship and enrich their personal and professional knowledge.

Each week the members have an opportunity to discuss club business and hear a presentation of a wide range of educational, interesting, and even heartwarming topics.

Valdez club members assist with membership recruitment and retention in an effort to keep the club strong. Membership dues help grow the organization and the Rotary Foundation whose mission is to achieve world understanding and peace through local, national,

and international humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs. Finally, service in club projects and fundraising efforts allows members to volunteer their time and talents where they are most needed and where they will most enjoy.

The Valdez club has completed many community service projects in recent years and some continue as annual or ongoing projects. Several years ago, local Rotarians built bus stop shelters in multiple locations to allow children to wait for the bus under cover during inclement weather.

Each year, the Valdez Rotary club members participate in keeping Ruth Pond, a local recreational area offering grass for lounging, benches for relaxing, and a pond for



*Above: Students enjoying smores at Rotary picnic. Opposite page (top to bottom): Rotarians selling storage shed raffle tickets, youth bus stop shelters, and Rotary aluminum recycling dumpster.*

fishing, clean and free of garbage and debris. In addition, the group gathers each year to clear the Ruth Pond trail that travels alongside the mountain above the pond.

The Valdez Rotary club also organizes and hosts the annual 'Meet the Candidates' night during the local election. This event is well attended by candidates and community residents and is aired on the local radio station. Rotary's efforts enable voters to learn about the issues and determine where each of the candidates running for City Council and School Board stand on the issues.

Rotary Youth Exchange offers students ages 15-19 the chance to travel abroad for cultural exchanges from one week to a full academic year. Rotary clubs worldwide and districts sponsor and host about 9,000 Youth Exchange students each year. The Valdez Rotary club participates in the Rotary Youth Exchange most years, sponsoring a student to come to Valdez and sending a student abroad for a semester. This has been a very rewarding program for the students, the club, and the host families.

Rotary's newest community service project is aimed at helping Valdez residents help the environment. Rotary has teamed up with the City of Valdez to promote the recycling of aluminum cans. Rotary will fund two dumpsters; one in town and one at the bailer facility to make it convenient for users. They've been painted blue and carry the Rotary logo for easy identification.

The program kicked off with a recycling rally during Frosty Fever Festival. Rotary will continue to actively promote use of the dumpsters and recycling and are planning a can 'round up' sometime this year. The City of Valdez takes care of gathering the cans from the dumpsters and transporting the recyclables.

If the aluminum can recycling is successful, Rotary hopes to expand to other recyclable materials and perhaps an in-town recycling center.

In addition to volunteering their time, Valdez Rotary Club members also help raise money to fund community service projects. They have built storage sheds and raffled them off, raffled snow blowers, and participated in the Museum quilt raffle each year. Local Rotarians also bake homemade goodies each year and partner with high school student and athletic groups to sell them, splitting the profits.

This year, planning is underway to hold a 'blast into summer' community fundraising event that will be similar to a turkey shoot. The event will take place in June and profits from this event will help fund the Rotary Youth Exchange Program and upcoming community service projects.

While local Rotarians work hard to provide service to the community, they also enjoy fellowship and having fun. The Valdez club enjoys an annual holiday event and summer picnic along with several smaller celebrations throughout the year.

Rotarians are making a difference in your community and around the world. If you are interested in more information visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or contact one of your local members.

