



Friends versus Membership

The question is sometimes asked “Why should I become a member when I can be involved as a Friend of Rotary?”

A Friend of Becton Rotary is someone who shares the values and ideals of the Rotary Organisation but at that time not feel able to commit to full membership. The principal values and ideals are those of service to the community with the belief that we all have skills and attributes that can be used to support those around us. Friends put these into practice by volunteering, when they are available, to help their affiliated club with project activities. By invitation they may also attend selected meetings and fellowship events.

As a Friend your participation in club activities is voluntary and although very welcome and appreciated is limited to activities the Club undertakes chosen by club members. We maintain your contact details on a secure list and when assistance is needed we contact you with a request for help. Your participation is without any obligation to yourself.

Why would a Friend become a full member of Rotary?

- Being a member of Rotary helps to maintain the ongoing structure of Rotary itself, which in turn enables the Fellowship, Service and Co-ordinated Voluntary Effort that is admired by so many. Imagine a world without our own charity, The Rotary Foundation, an organisation that has done so much to help rid the world of the Polio disease.
- As a member, you are able to play a greater part in the activities of your club and be involved in the decision making of what the club does and how it evolves to meet the needs of the community.
- Similarly, as a Rotarian you are able to enjoy Fellowship and Friendship beyond the confines of your own Club.
- If a Friend of Rotary has a passion for a particular social or service activity then it is possible that this activity is part of one of the many Rotary Action Groups that exist. Being a Rotarian gives you access to these Groups where you can share your passion with like-minded people.
- Friends of Rotary are not permitted to call themselves Rotarians; this title is restricted to those who are full members of Rotary. Being a Rotarian provides you access to like-minded people in Clubs in over 200 countries throughout the world where you are guaranteed a welcome. You carry with you the knowledge that those you meet recognise you as a member of the highly regarded Rotary International organisation.

[Larry Anthony, Secretary](#), The Rotary Club of Becton & District.