Interact
Rotary Sponsored Club

ROTARY DISTRICT 5495 AMBASSADORS TO KENYA AND MEXICO AMBASSADOR APPLICATION

Interact Ambassadors is an international leadership, peacebuilding and service program partnering with Crutches 4 Africa and ALEM.

APPLICANT

Last Name _____ **First Name** _____

Address _____**City/State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Cell Phone _____**Email** _____

Date of Birth _____ **Age**_____ **Sex (M / F)** **What is your t-shirt size?** _____

School _____ **Current Grade Level** _____ **GPA:** _____

Interact Advisor _____ **Principal** _____

Active Member in an Interact Club? (Y / N) **Attended RYLA? (Y / N)**

Do you have a passport? (Y / N) Expiration Date _____ (provide a copy with your application)

SELECT ONLY ONE - I would like to be considered for the ____ Mexico Team ____ Kenya Team.

What languages have you studied and for how long? _____

Do you have any brothers/sisters? Describe _____

Do you have any dietary restrictions? Explain_____

Do you require any medication, any medical condition or allergies? Explain. If selected a full list of medications is required to be provided to the leadership team.

_____

Parent or Legal Guardian Information (required for both)

First and Last Name _____ **First and Last Name**_____

Relation_____ **Relation** _____

Address_____ **Address** _____

Home Phone _____ **Home Phone** _____

Cell _____ **Cell** _____

Email Address _____ **Email Address** _____

Occupation _____ **Occupation** _____

Rotarian (Y / N) Club _____ **Rotarian (Y / N) Club** _____

The following questions can be answered on additional pages, attached to your application.

1. Why do you want to become an Ambassador and why do you believe you are ready for this experience?

2. What does it mean to be an Ambassador? What responsibilities come with that role?

3. Describe a service experience that had a meaningful impact on you. What did you learn?

4. Describe a time you worked as part of a team. What role did you take? Do you naturally take the lead, or do you prefer being a part of a team supporting someone else's leadership?

5. International travel often involves unfamiliar cultures, changing plans, and unexpected challenges. Describe a time you stepped outside your comfort zone or had to adapt to a difficult situation. How did you handle it?

6. Tell us about your travel experiences. Have you traveled away from home or internationally? If you have never traveled internationally, what excites you most—and what concerns you most—about this opportunity?

7. Fundraising is an important part of this program. Please describe any fundraising experience you have and explain how you plan to personally raise $1500.00?

8. If selected, what do you hope to contribute to your Ambassador team, and what do you hope this experience will teach you?

FUNDRAISING LETTER

Fundraising is an important part of the Ambassadors Program. Each Ambassador is expected to raise funds outside of Rotary in support of their participation.

As part of your application, you must submit a draft fundraising letter and a distribution plan identifying 20 potential supporters (family, friends, neighbors, local businesses, community members, etc.) you intend to contact if selected.

If accepted into the program, your letter will be reviewed and refined before distribution as one of your fundraising tools.

Your letter should include:

- A brief introduction about yourself.
- Why you applied to be an Ambassador.
- An overview of the Ambassadors Program and the communities you will serve.
- What you hope to learn and contribute through this experience.
- Why fundraising is important and how donations support your participation as a future leader.
- A respectful request for support.

By submitting this application, you acknowledge that, if selected, you are committing to actively use your finalized fundraising letter and distribute it to a minimum of 20 potential supporters as part of your fundraising efforts.

PROGRAM FEE

☐ **$1000 Fee – Mexico Team**	Payments: $250 due upon acceptance, March 1, April 1, May 1
☐ **$1250 Fee – Kenya Team**	Payments: $250 due upon acceptance, March 1, April 1, May 1, June 1

**Each Ambassador is responsible for the above out-of-pocket participation fee for travel and in country expenses. This is separate from the required $1500 fundraising commitment. Payment may be made in full or in payments as described above. District 5495 will invoice you accordingly.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST – YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE REVIEWED UNTIL PACKET IS COMPLETE

☐ **Application**
☐ **Signed Program Acknowledgement**
☐ **Fundraising Letter**
☐ **Two (2) Letters of Recommendation** (One from your Interact Club Advisor.)
☐ **Copy of Passport**
☐ **Copy of State Identification (ID or Driver's License)**
☐ **Photo (for use in program materials)**

Please forward your application and all necessary documentation to:

Dr. Art Harrington
(928) 245-0411
Email: arthts@msn.com
Note: Applications are due by December 15th. The applications will be screened by our Selection Committee, and applicants will be contacted about scheduling an online interview with members of that committee in January. Our Ambassadors team will be selected by early February.

AMBASSADOR APPLICANT AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____, acknowledge and understand that by applying for the Ambassadors Program, I am committing to fulfill my responsibilities as a participant. I have read and understand the following expectations and requirements.

Ambassador Applicant to Read and Initial

____ I understand that I am applying for the Ambassadors Program and that selection is competitive. I understand that the Selection Committee has sole discretion in determining team placement and final acceptance into the program.

____ I understand that the program budget is dependent upon successful fundraising. While every effort will be made to provide all planned educational, cultural, and recreational activities, certain optional activities are contingent upon fundraising success. If fundraising goals are not met, these activities may be reduced, modified, canceled, or offered at an additional cost to participants.

____ I understand that my individual contribution is $1,000 for Mexico or $1,250 for Kenya. This contribution covers only a portion of the program's in-country expenses, including accommodations, meals, and transportation, and is due upon acceptance into the program.

____ I understand that the Ambassadors Program is funded through the fundraising efforts of each team. I am required to actively participate in all team fundraising activities, and to raise the minimum individual fundraising amount established by the program. I understand that my individual fundraising requirement must be met through donations from non-Rotary sources, including family, friends, neighbors, community members, businesses, employers, and other supporters, unless otherwise approved by the Program Chair. I understand that failure to meet these fundraising requirements may affect my participation in certain program activities and may result in additional out-of-pocket costs.

____ I also understand that participation in Rotary club meetings and events is an expectation of the program and provides opportunities to support additional program fundraising efforts. Funds raised through Rotary clubs and other Rotary sources are considered program-raised funds and are separate from, and in addition to, my individual $1,500 fundraising requirement.

____ I understand that attendance and active participation in all required training sessions are essential components of this program. Up to fifteen (15) online training sessions will be held prior to departure. Ambassadors are expected to complete assigned research and presentations. More than one approved absence or failure to actively participate may result in removal from the program. Any unapproved absence may result in immediate removal from the program. *Sessions will generally be held on Sunday evenings beginning in February.

____ I understand that there will be an in-person overnight team retreat, which may be held during the Rotary District 5495 Conference, and my attendance is mandatory. Travel to and from the retreat is my responsibility.

____ I understand that this is a team-based leadership program. I agree to actively participate in all meetings, service projects, educational activities, discussions, and cultural experiences, and to contribute positively to the success of the team.

____ I understand that I am responsible for all program- and travel-related tasks and expenses, including, but not limited to, obtaining my passport, visa (if applicable), required vaccinations (if applicable), recommended or desired medications, transportation to and from the in-person retreat, and transportation to and from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport for program departure and arrival.

AMBASSADOR APPLICANT AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CONTINUED

____ I understand that punctuality and reliability are essential to the success of this program, and I will arrive on time, prepared, and ready to participate in each scheduled event.

____ I understand that I represent my family, school, Interact, Rotaract, Rotary District 5495, and the communities we visit. I agree to conduct myself with integrity, respect, maturity, and professionalism throughout training and while traveling.

____ I understand that participation in this program requires my full attention and engagement. Personal electronic devices, including cell phones, may only be used during times approved by the advisors. Phone use, social media use, gaming, streaming, or other distractions that interfere with participation are prohibited. I further understand that advisors may collect or restrict access to my phone or other electronic devices when in country, Kenya and Mexico.

____ I understand that I am expected to follow all directions given by program advisors promptly and respectfully. Failure to follow instructions, repeated behavioral issues, unsafe conduct, violations of program rules, or actions that negatively impact the team may result in disciplinary action, including loss of privileges, restricted participation in activities, or removal from the program.

____ I understand that the advisors are responsible for the safety, well-being, and success of the team. I agree to follow advisor instructions at all times. I understand that advisor decisions regarding safety, discipline, itinerary changes, and program participation are final.

____ I understand that the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine products (including vaping), marijuana, illegal drugs, or any controlled substance not prescribed to me is strictly prohibited and may result in immediate removal from the program at my family's expense.

____ I understand that if I cancel my participation in the program or am removed from the program, for any reason, after airline tickets have been purchased, it is my responsibility, along with my parent(s)/legal guardian(s), to reimburse Interact District 5495 for the full cost of my airfare and one-half (½) of the Ambassador's individual contribution.

____ I understand that if I am removed from the program while in-country (Kenya or Mexico), all costs associated with my removal and return travel are the responsibility of me and my parent(s)/legal guardian(s).

I, the Ambassador, acknowledge that by initialing each statement above and signing below, I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the requirements and expectations of the Ambassadors Program. I understand that meeting these requirements is a condition of participation and that failure to do so may result in the loss of program privileges or removal from the program.

I, the undersigned parent/legal guardian, acknowledge that I have read and understand the expectations outlined above for both my student and me, and agree to support their fulfillment of these expectations.

Ambassador Applicant signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent / Legal Guardian signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent / Legal Guardian signature _____ **Date** _____

**Both parents/legal guardians are required to acknowledge. If only one parent/legal guardian, please provide additional information to Dr. Art Harrington.