

STRIVE GETTING STARTED GUIDE

(CLUB ACTION – SCHOOL COMMITMENT – STUDENT ORIENTATION):

1. Action to be taken by the club's Board of Directors:
 - Review the components of the program - obtain a favorable vote of approval to proceed with the program.
 - Identify 1-2 Rotarians to be responsible for facilitating this program with the local school district.
 - Establish a scholarship to be awarded to the student who improves the most (again, based on Attendance, Attitude, GPA, and Participation). This scholarship will help generate some excitement amongst the students.
 - Set a date to review this program with school officials.
2. Presenting STRIVE to the local school officials. Feedback from clubs who already have a program in place share the following theme: "The hardest part about STRIVE is developing the relationship with the local school officials... but once you have that in place... the program becomes very worthwhile and often a lot of fun. When presenting this program, please highlight the following:
 - Some history about Rotary and it's commitment to youth.
 - This program does not require any funding on the part of the school.
 - Talk about the uniqueness of this program in that it rewards improvement - very few programs nationally provide scholarships based on excellence through improvement.
 - The school will need to:
 - Designate a member of faculty/staff to attend the meetings.
 - Provide a meeting room for the monthly meetings
 - Identify the students that will be invited to participate.
 - Offer positive reinforcement for the participating students
 - Schedule a meeting in which the Rotary Club might present this program to the faculty. Faculty 'buy-in' is important because without it the teacher might view this program as 'another excuse a student isn't attending class'.

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3. Student Orientation... a two-step process:

- First, letters are sent to both the student and parent outlining the purpose of STRIVE and uniqueness of this special invitation to participate.
- Second, an orientation/motivation meeting is conducted. It is extremely important that a very dynamic speaker outlines the program. The anticipated outcome is that you'll have students accept the Rotary STRIVE challenge and sign the commitment form for the year. Again, only students who sign the commitment form by the 2nd STRIVE meeting should be allowed to participate. **Don't worry if you invited 30 students and only end up with 10 who wanted to participate beyond the 2nd meeting** (you'll find your time spent with the 10 students much more rewarding than if you tried to implement a program to 30 of which 20 didn't care!)

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO THE STRIVE STUDENTS MEET?

Typically one-hour or one classroom period meetings are held monthly at an early hour in the day. A typical agenda is as follows:

- Attendance is taken.
- STRIVE goals are reaffirmed: being on time for classes, working a little bit harder at classroom assignments every day, demonstrating a positive attitude, participating in school and community activities.
- Announcements about future monthly programs.
- Speaker Presentation
- Q&A time
- Back to Class

HOW ARE TOPICS CHOSEN FOR THE MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS?

This is one of most important aspects of the STRIVE Program. The topics for each monthly presentation are chosen by the participating STRIVE students. Therefore, STRIVE truly becomes a Student-Driven program. Upon obtaining the topics from

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the students, the STRIVE Rotary Facilitators will secure speakers from the community to address the topics. Typically, the speakers are not faculty or staff members from the school.

- Who attends the monthly STRIVE meetings? Answer: STRIVE Students; Rotary STRIVE facilitators; Guest Speaker; High School Staff Liaison.
- Some examples of programs suggested by students include:
 - Interviewing and Resume Writing
 - Where is Computer Programming going?
 - Interest and Goal Setting
 - Owning a small business
 - Employment expectations
 - Jobs in the manufacturing sector
 - Getting into College when your grades aren't so good

TIPS FOR THE LUCKY FEW DESIGNATED AS THE ROTARY STRIVE COORDINATOR:

You just volunteered (or were strong-armed) to be your club's STRIVE coordinator - what do you do. The best advice is to plan the year like you would many business activities.

- Establish your year-long calendar ahead of time. Have an agenda for each meeting.
- Don't do all the work yourself. Use other Rotarians (See list below)
- Have fun with the students! Take donuts and orange juice to meetings.
- Call on other STRIVE coordinators for advice and suggestions.
- Evaluate the program at the end of the year.

HOW DO YOU INVOLVE ALL ROTARIANS IN THIS PROGRAM?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Invite the STRIVE students to attend a Rotary Meeting. Remember to mix and mingle!
2. Plan a community service project with the students.

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3. Have 1-2 Rotarians attend the Monthly STRIVE meetings.
4. Begin a letter writing campaign. As the club learns the interests and aspirations of each student, have members of the club write letters of encouragement to each student. This can be done throughout the school year.
5. Pick a meeting where all the money raised goes to the STRIVE program.
6. Include notes about your STRIVE program in the club's newsletter.
7. Plan a fun outing with the students. Perhaps you all go the High School Football game together... this can be especially fun if a few of your STRIVE students are on the team. Signs and load cheers for the team can be much fun!
8. Have as many Rotarians as possible attend the annual High School Awards Assembly. How about a Rotary standing-ovation for all STRIVE students.

STRIVE FORMS:

Click on [GET INVOLVED](#) to view the STRIVE Page and see the most recent documents available for download.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?

If you would like to:

- Know more about this program.
- Acquire a name of a STRIVE coordinator in a community near your own.
- Obtain all the necessary forms for the school year.
- Have a member of the District STRIVE team:
 - Help present this program to your club board or school leaders.
 - Conduct your first-ever Student Orientation Meeting.

Do not hesitate to contact us - Your District 5960 STRIVE team:

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