

100 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IDEAS

1. Create a giant birthday cake in the shape of a Rotary wheel or featuring the centennial logo and invite the community and media to share it.
2. Coordinate with the chamber of commerce to declare a Rotary Day in the city. Publicize a proclamation in schools, newspapers, TV, businesses, and Web sites.
3. Enhance the visit of the Rotary Centennial Bell by asking a non-Rotarian celebrity (e.g., television personality, mayor, schoolchildren, project representative, political representative) to ring the bell and make a notation in the bell journal for a photo opportunity. Offer fun facts about Rotary for a caption or sidebar.
4. Publish a newspaper supplement highlighting local and international Rotary stories. Profile exchange students, local projects, and those who have benefited from Rotary service. List club members and their occupations in the community.
5. Conduct a local billboard campaign highlighting Rotary's anniversary and the good Rotary has accomplished.
6. Organize a Rotary 100th birthday party and invite at-risk children and youth as the key guests.
7. Order placemats and napkins with the centennial logo on them. Use them for club meetings or special events throughout the year.
8. Create a giant JELL-O® mold of the Rotary wheel or centennial logo for a media photo opportunity.
9. Conduct a local poster or essay contest promoting volunteerism in conjunction with the centennial.
10. Collect pennies or the equivalent in other countries over the course of the year with the proceeds going to a local community project.
11. Encourage Rotary Ambassadorial or World Peace Scholars to research and speak on Rotary history at the university he or she is attending.
12. Create a Rotary History speakers bureau where Rotary members in the community speak at the library, chamber of commerce, and schools on the value of volunteerism and use project examples from Rotary's century of civic service.
13. Coordinate a 100-mile bike rally, 10-K run/walk-a-thon, or similar with a centennial theme. Registration proceeds can go to a centennial service project.
14. Invite a Paul Harris impersonator to visit local schools to tell children the story of Rotary and its 100 years of service. Also share the story of the founding and project contributions of local Rotary clubs.
15. Interview on videotape older Rotary members about their understanding of Rotary and Rotary's contribution to volunteerism at home and around the world. Show the tape at Rotary meetings, the local library, schools and, if available, local cable stations.
16. Conduct a centennial concert. Bring together professional or student musicians or exchange students with musical talents. Play a song representing each decade of Rotary's 100 years or songs from different Rotary countries.
17. Conduct an auction highlighting Rotary's centennial. Offer for sale items from each of the 100 years Rotary has been around and auction them in chronological order. Share a bit of Rotary trivia relevant to the year the item represents.
18. Coordinate an international festival night with current and past Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars, GSE participants, Youth Exchange students, and others who have traveled abroad for Rotary. Ask them to share their stories, journal entries, music, photos, and how their Rotary experience touched them.
19. Create Rotary playing cards with key Rotary events, projects, and people on them. Give them as gifts or organize an event featuring card games.
20. Publish a cookbook and/or host a cooking demonstration featuring 100 recipes from Rotarians in the area. With each recipe have the contributor share what Rotary has meant to him or her.
21. Hold a 100-hour service marathon. Have Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and their families volunteer throughout the 100-hour period — focusing on service in places and at times that need volunteers when most people are sleeping.
22. Coordinate with sister clubs around the world 100 days of international service. Together, the clubs can work toward assisting projects in each other's community and/or jointly work together to serve a third community.
23. Hold an inter-city or inter-district Rotary meeting to celebrate Rotary's centennial. Focus on Rotary history, service projects, and testimonials from older members. Invite Rotaractors and Interactors to participate.
24. Develop a volunteerism display at your local library, historical society, or museum featuring local and international Rotary projects over the past century as examples of civic service.
25. Conduct or help sponsor an air balloon race, antique car show, airplane air show, etc., and incorporate Rotary's 100th anniversary as the race/show theme.
26. Write an article or commission Rotary ads in community or university school newspapers highlighting what Rotary has accomplished locally and globally in the past century and why Rotary remains relevant today.
27. In honor of Rotary's centennial, conduct a poetry or fiction writing contest with volunteerism or civic service as the theme. Offer scholarships as prizes.
28. Hold a centennial candlelight ceremony where each candle represents a Rotary year, Rotary country, or humanitarian project accomplished. State what the candle represents when lighting it.

29. For a local newspaper article, highlight a family that has generations of Rotarians in it or a combination of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors. Emphasize any Youth Exchange or GSE experience as well.
30. Hold a Rotary film/video festival featuring all the movies in which Rotary has been featured either with characters as Rotarians and/or the Rotary emblem receiving prominent placement. Ask the local library to help research titles, obtain videos, and host a Rotary Movie Day.
31. Coordinate a centennial plastic duck race with 100 ducks floating down a river. Each duck can represent a Rotary year. Proceeds from any bets can help a local community project.
32. Write an article or book on the history of Rotary in your community. Focus on vocational, community, and international service. Submit it to your local newspaper for possible publication.
33. Conduct a 100-hour telethon. Utilize local radio, public access television, or other means to communicate with the public. Each hour can represent a Rotary year and any funds raised can go to a centennial community project.
34. Ask prominent celebrities in the community to help promote Rotary's centennial. Invite them to speak at a centennial banquet or promote the program through the media.
35. Develop a Rotary Centennial exhibit at the local post office. Use samples of Rotary stamps (see postcards in the *Centennial Promotional Kit*) and highlight local and global Rotary projects.
36. Coordinate with a local television station (morning talk show, evening news weather segment) to have a different Rotarian share a different Rotary project each day for a week. Highlight Rotary history and local and international service efforts.
37. Have a 1905 costume ball where guests dress up. Ask someone to act as Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, and have him share some of Harris's quotes on volunteerism.
38. Help Interactors develop volunteerism exhibits at their schools. Highlight Rotary's century of civic service.
39. Collect 100 pieces of different items (for example, 100 pairs of shoes, school supplies, coats, gloves, eyeglasses, etc.) and distribute to those in need at a centennial event.
40. Create a list of top 100 Rotary projects and share it with your local newspaper or magazine. Offer local and international examples.
41. Hold a mock Rotary club meeting at an elementary school (similar to a model United Nations event). Focus on organizing and executing a service project that helps the school. Invite education reporters to cover the event.
42. Invite members of other service organizations or community groups to a Rotary Centennial meeting, lunch, dinner, or event that honors partnerships in the community. Network and watch to see if a new community project develops.
43. Conduct a parade that highlights Rotary's internationality and service projects from around the globe.
44. Enter a centennial float in an existing annual parade. Invite Interactors and Youth Exchange students to help with decorating and/or riding on the float.
45. Create a Rotary wheel or centennial logo piñata and have children break it open at a Rotary Centennial event.
46. Invite 100 past and current Rotary scholars, Youth Exchange students, GSE participants, and alumni of international service to a Rotary Centennial celebration. Have a map available and ask guests to mark where they've lived, served, and experienced Rotary friendship abroad.
47. Create a mock *Guinness Book of Records* of local Rotary clubs in the area. Include in it 100 facts about clubs including the oldest, largest, first to admit women, most Paul Harris Fellows, largest service project, greatest amount contributed to The Rotary Foundation, greatest numbers of Rotary scholars sent and received, etc.
48. Highlight recognition of Rotary by having Rotarian shop owners display the centennial logo in their place of business.
49. Coordinate a centennial scavenger hunt with Rotaractors and Interactors where participants must go to Rotarians' places of business for clues to a riddle or to pick up certain items related to Rotary history.
50. Promote 100 years of vocational service and the "recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations" by compiling the ways Rotarians have served their local and global community through their profession. If possible, list 100 different occupations and ways of service, and send the list to the local newspaper.
51. Distribute Rotary and centennial logo bumper stickers.
52. Ask children to create a picture incorporating the Rotary or centennial logo and submit it to local authorities for consideration as the year's vehicle sticker or postage stamp.
53. Have a Rotary Centennial Queen or King contest. The Rotary Queen/King will then reign over Rotary projects in the community or district for one year. Ensure that volunteer service experience is one of the main judging criteria for selecting the Queen/King.
54. Coordinate with local authorities to have a street named after Rotary — particularly at the site of a key Rotary project or where the club meets. Ensure that a street sign with the name Rotary is correctly placed.
55. Create a Rotary Centennial airport display. Feature local and international service projects. Emphasize the internationality of Rotary.
56. At a local festival or similar, hold a Taste of Rotary featuring food representing various Rotary countries. Decorate the booth with flags of such countries and provide information about Rotary and its centennial at the booth.

57. Hold a centennial progressive meeting (or dinner) where, in keeping with the founders of Rotary, the meeting (or dinner) changes location. Feature highlights of Rotary history at each new location.
58. Sponsor a Rotary Centennial sporting event such as a volleyball competition, disabled baseball league, or other activity that gathers the community together. Share the Rotary story in a brochure or event program and distribute it to participants and spectators.
59. Conduct a centennial conference or seminar focused on volunteerism. Invite representatives from community groups. Offer tips and ideas about project development, management, and networking. Invite an inspiring speaker to encourage those who voluntarily serve others.
60. Hold a Rotary information booth/table at a flea market or carnival. Offer centennial baked goods for sale to raise money for a project and share the Rotary story with anyone who comes along.
61. Have a sky diving team hold a centennial logo flag or flags as they descend from the sky.
62. Have an airplane trail a Happy 100th Anniversary Rotary banner or sky-write a Rotary anniversary greeting at a local air show or similar.
63. Honor in a newspaper ad or supplement all those who contributed — through donations of time or money — to the eradication of polio. Include an article about Rotary's PolioPlus program.
64. Hold a Rotary Centennial immunization day where — even in countries where polio is now a memory — Rotarians encourage children to receive other necessary routine immunizations. Celebrate the eradication of polio and share how Rotary helped make it possible.
65. Plant a grove of 100 trees to protect the environment and provide sanctuary and a place of solitude for others. Name it Rotary Centennial Grove or similar.
66. Conduct a public access or cable television program on the history of Rotary. Use the *History of Rotary* video (921-EN from the RI *Catalog*) and supplement the program with information about local Rotary history and projects.
67. Coordinate with local authorities to have a giant Rotary wheel or centennial logo placed on a water tower or the highest building in your town.
68. Hold a pancake breakfast using the Rotary Centennial as a theme.
69. Conduct a centennial sweepstakes horse race, puppy race, or turtle race. Proceeds on any bets could go to local Rotary projects.
70. In contrast to *Bowling Alone*, Harvard University professor Robert Putman's book on declining community life, organize a Rotary Centennial bowling league. Proceeds from the league could help fund a community service project.
71. Organize a Rotary Centennial circus or carnival for your community.
72. Promote Rotary's century of civic service via movie-screen advertisements.
73. Conduct a Rotary Centennial dessert competition with bakeries and restaurants in your area. Encourage the media to cover the competition.
74. Use the Rotary Centennial logo on promotional items.
75. Identify and honor the 100 top volunteers in your community. Consult with other service organizations, schools, hospitals, and houses of worship for nominations. Contact the media to cover the honored volunteers and their volunteerism stories.
76. Create a human Rotary wheel by having Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and others lie down in a field, sports stadium, or park to create the design of a Rotary wheel. Invite the media as a photo opportunity.
77. Create a Rotary Centennial quilt honoring 100 years of Rotary service. Use each square to highlight a service project, club, or Rotarian.
78. Use the Rotary Centennial logo and have temporary tattoos created as a handout for children.
79. Have a vocational service day at school where Rotarians visit the school and share about their occupation and Rotary service.
80. Create a Rotary Centennial rose garden or similar for the entire community to enjoy.
81. Coordinate a centennial wine and cheese tasting event. Offer vintages from each decade of the past Rotary century and share project highlights when introducing the new bottle for tasting.
82. Hold a hula-hoop, yo-yo, or other funny competition to see who can reach 100 turns, 100 seconds, or similar without making a mistake. Award prizes. Contact the media for a photo opportunity.
83. Commission a limited edition sculpture, painting, or sketch by a famous artist depicting the ideals of civic service or volunteerism. Auction the piece for funds to support a local project.
84. Have a local school group create and perform a skit regarding the first Rotary club meeting. Invite the students to perform this at various Rotary meetings and publicize the play to the local media.
85. Create a special page on the club/district Web site celebrating Rotary's centennial and the history of Rotary in the area. Link to the Rotary History section on the Rotary International Web site.
86. Sponsor a Rotary Centennial sports team. Include the centennial logo on the team jersey.
87. District governors, club presidents, Rotaractors, or Interactors can raise funds for a community service project by agreeing to have a Rotary wheel or centennial logo shaved or dyed into their hair when a certain contribution amount has been reached.
88. Sponsor a fundraising event or community service project where, if the goal is reached, a Rotarian leader gets a centennial tattoo.
89. Work with a local auto dealership to have a car emblazoned with Rotary wheels and centennial logos. Use the car as a pace car at a local racetrack.

90. Create a Happy Birthday Rotary! card and use it for correspondence within the district and to outside organizations.
91. Organize a 100th anniversary round robin letter or chain e-mail to all Rotarians in the club or district where they explain why they joined Rotary and what it has meant to them.
92. In cooperation with your local paper or on a club or district Web site, list 100 Simple Acts of Kindness that a person can do throughout the day to bring more joy into the world. Include such things as: 1) Opening a door for someone; 2) Saying "thank you"; 3) Smiling at someone; 4) Giving a generous tip, etc. Include a Rotary wheel and centennial logo as part of the list's graphics.
93. Distribute the pictures of past and current Rotary officers and have a contest to determine who is the "most photogenic." Highlight the accomplishments of that officer's year at a future meeting.
94. Hold a Rotary Centennial music contest. Have participants sing Rotary songs or create a centennial song of their own.
95. Invite the district's first female Rotary member to share her perspective on the history of Rotary and Rotary today. Invite the media to cover the presentation.
96. Develop Rotary Centennial window displays depicting the history of Rotary and past and current Rotary projects relevant to the community.
97. Knit, crochet, or otherwise make 100 sets of mittens, scarves, or socks to be given away as part of a community service project. Include a Rotary wheel or centennial logo in the pattern.
98. As part of a local community project, plant a centennial vegetable garden. Include 100 plants each of various varieties or arrange the vegetables in such a manner that they would resemble a 100 or a Rotary wheel. When the plants have grown, contact the media for a photo opportunity.
99. Create a photography exhibit of Rotary in Action. Use either existing photos or have a professional photographer take quality images of Rotarians working on a local community or international project. Develop, mount, and frame the photos for display at the local library, civic center, or similar location.
100. Write a letter to the editor or opinion piece on 100 Reasons to Volunteer. Include highlights of Rotary's century of civic service. Send it to your local paper.