



# Ruritan

Ruritan is a civic service organization with the purpose of creating a better understanding between people and, through volunteer community service, make America's communities a better place to live and work. The slogan of Ruritan is Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service. Each Ruritan Club surveys the needs of its community, and then works to meet those needs.

Ruritan began in Holland, Virginia in 1928. Since then, the Ruritan tradition of local community service has expanded to include more than 35,000 Ruritan volunteers. This continued tradition has earned Ruritan the reputation of "America's Leading Community Service Organization" in more than 1,200 communities across the nation.

Ruritan Clubs provide and coordinate a wide range of community improvement projects and activities, including: community fund-raisers, food drives, and scholarships to deserving students. Many Ruritan Clubs also support local youth organizations such as 4-H, FFA, Little League, scouts, and others. Many Ruritan clubs donate plush **Rudy Bears** to hospitals and school counselors as well as emergency and law enforcement



agencies, providing cheer and comfort for children in times of crisis.

Ruritan Clubs hold informative and educational monthly meetings that give Ruritan members an opportunity to share ideas about community improvements and service projects. Club meetings feature a fellowship meal, a club business session, and an educational or entertaining program for club members. Most Ruritan Club meetings usually last an hour and a half or less. Ruritan Clubs are composed of concerned citizens who represent a cross section of the community that the club serves. Men and women of all professions, ages and ethnic backgrounds enjoy Ruritan membership.



## Ruritan Mission

Ruritan is a national organization dedicated to improving communities and building a better America through fellowship, goodwill, and community service.

## Benefits of Membership

Ruritans believe the most important benefit of membership is the opportunity to work in fellowship with people who, like them, have a desire to make their communities better places in which to live.

In addition to that very important benefit, Ruritan members also receive a high quality membership card, and a quarterly magazine of Ruritan news and community service tips. Free leadership training and other programs help Ruritan members get the most out of their community service efforts.

Ruritan members receive group discounts from Choice Hotels, American Express, Alamo Car Rentals, and other nationally known businesses that recognize the importance of volunteer service contributions.



## Community Service Projects

Ruritan Clubs improve America's communities through five service committees including: Business & Professions; Citizenship & Patriotism; Environment; Public Service; and Social Development.

Ruritan Club service committees propose and implement projects and programs to fulfill the needs of the community. Typical community programs and projects include these:

- ◆ Sponsoring Little Leagues and other athletic programs and providing local athletic fields.
- ◆ Awarding educational scholarships.
- ◆ Sponsoring scout units.
- ◆ Supporting 4-H, FFA, and FHA.
- ◆ Sponsoring students to attend leadership programs at 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus and Freedoms Foundation's Youth Leadership Conference.
- ◆ Sponsoring roadside clean-up and anti-litter drives.
- ◆ Promoting industrial development in the community.
- ◆ Supporting life-saving squads and fire departments.
- ◆ Sponsoring blood donor programs and Bloodmobiles.
- ◆ Assisting the elderly and infirm.
- ◆ Constructing roadside and community parks.
- ◆ Providing community centers and meeting places.
- ◆ Providing Drug abuse education and information.
- ◆ Sponsoring many more projects in communities across America.



## Youth Programs

The Ruritan National Foundation annually provides financial assistance to students to further their education after graduation from high school. In addition, hundreds of Ruritan Clubs award annual scholarships and grants to local students.

Groups of students, sponsored by an existing Ruritan Club, may choose to form a Ruri-Teen Club.

The Ruritan Student Program introduces youth to the Ruritan spirit of Fellowship, Goodwill and Community Service by sponsoring students as members of local Ruritan Clubs.

For more information about Ruritan membership, contact your local Ruritan Club, or contact:

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RURITAN CLUBS

COMMUNITY PEOPLE  
MEETING  
COMMUNITY NEEDS

FELLOWSHIP

GOODWILL

COMMUNITY SERVICE

