

What Is Ruritan?

Ruritan National has nearly 26,000 members throughout the United States that work to improve more than 1,000 local communities. Since the organization's beginning in 1928, Ruritan Clubs have served America with Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service. Ruritan is a civic service organization made up of local clubs in urban areas, small towns, and rural communities.

Ruritan's purpose is to create a better understanding among people through volunteer community service. Ruritans make America's communities better places in which to live and work. The slogan of Ruritan is "Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service." Club membership represents a cross-section of the community in which the club serves and is not restrictive with regard to occupation, social position, or any other specific criteria.

Unlike most civic service organizations, Ruritan rarely has national programs. Rather, each club surveys its own community as to the needs of their area and then works to meet some of those needs.

Ruritan clubs work locally with:

- FFA,
- 4-H,
- Scout programs,
- recreational activities,
- athletic programs,
- environmental programs,
- senior citizens,
- youth, and
- others in need.

Ruritans perform a wide range of services to help their communities.



Ask a Ruritan in your community about becoming an Associate Member

I'd love to be an active Ruritan member but...



My business keeps me too busy to regularly attend meetings ...

I live too far away from the closest Ruritan Club ...



My family obligations are too demanding right now ...

**Did you know you can STILL be a Ruritan?
You can be an Associate Member!**



Invitation to Ruritan Membership

Recommendation for Membership

As a member in good standing of the _____ Ruritan Club, I respectfully submit the name of _____ as a prospective member to the Club President and the Club's Board of Directors.

CLUB NAME

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER'S NAME

I believe this person has the integrity, character, and dedication to the welfare of this community that makes a strong candidate for Ruritan membership. As a sponsor, I will help this person learn about Ruritan, encourage their participation in club activities, and help them remain active in the Fellowship, Goodwill and Community Service of Ruritan.

Sincerely, _____

SPONSORING CLUB MEMBER'S NAME

This person has also been endorsed by Club Member _____.

ENDORING CLUB MEMBER'S NAME

New Member Acceptance

On _____, the board of directors agreed to recommend this proposed member to the club's general membership. On _____, the general membership agreed to accept this proposed member to become an active member of this club.

MONTH/DAY/YEAR

MONTH/DAY/YEAR

New Member Information: Information needed for MMS (Member Management database online)

On _____, this new member was welcomed into the club and was instructed in the purpose and objectives of Ruritan. Community Service Committee Assignment: _____.

SERVICE COMMITTEE

New Member's Name: _____ Preferred Nickname: _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Spouse name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Member Type: **Adult** **Youth** **Business/Organization** **Associate Member**

If this is an Associate Membership - (check the one below that applies.)

____ Associate Individual/Youth (receives Pin)
 ____ Associate Business/Organization (receives Plaque ____ or Window Static ____)

Associate membership in Ruritan has been established to provide an opportunity for individuals and businesses that are not available to attend club meetings as a regular member, but who want to be affiliated with Ruritan and show their support of the community- improving work Ruritans do.

Associate Members' benefits include:

1. A subscription to the National Magazine
2. Lapel pin (one per membership) OR business plaque stating "This business is a Ruritan supporter" (optional for businesses only)
3. Club Newsletter (subject to availability and club policy)
4. Membership card

When the name of the applicant is submitted by a club secretary, indicating club and board approval, the new Associate Member will be listed as an Associate Member of that club. Their lack of attendance will not affect the club's ability to achieve goals like the Blue Ribbon status and Outstanding President's Award.

Once again, any club taking in Associate Members will not be penalized by attendance or lack of attendance by that member.

Associate members pay only Ruritan National dues plus a one-time initiation fee (\$3 paid-in-advance) for annual renewal of regular annual dues.

This member will pay _____ in dues each year.

If this new member purchases a Ruritan Forever Endowment enclose \$600 (one time fee) and check the box here.

Military Status: Active Inactive N/A Reserves Retired None
Military Branch: Army Air Force Coast Guard National Guard Navy Marines

I accept this invitation to be a member of this Ruritan Club and, by payment of initiation fee and dues, hereby accept the principles of Ruritan as expressed in its objects and agree to comply with, and be bound by, the bylaws of this Ruritan Club.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

New Member Background Information

This information will help your Ruritan Club get to know you better and use your background experience and talents to the best advantage in furthering its community service work and fund-raising activities. While completion of this form is voluntary, the information provided will improve the ability of the Club to meet its objectives.

1. Emergency Contact

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Relationship to Member: _____

2. Member's hobbies or special interests:

3. Experience with other civic or fraternal organizations, including offices held:

4. Other information:

To Be Kept in Club Files