



Rotary

ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA CLARA

NEWS RELEASE

**ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA CLARA GEARING UP FOR DECEMBER
COMMUNITY GIVING PROJECTS**

*Bringing Christmas Cheer to Children and Families and Speech Competition to
High School Students!*

Santa Clara, CA - November 24, 2014 -- Rotary Club of Santa Clara (www.santaclararotary.org) ready's plans for December community giving and will host their annual Youth Speech Contest, the first level of competition in the Rotary District 5170 Richard D. King Speech Contest. In addition, the club will also host "Christmas For Kids", a special event bringing Christmas joy to young children and their families. Both projects focus on students and young children from selected schools in the Santa Clara Unified School District.

"Every year our members look forward to the speech contest and we are always surprised by the talent the students display," said Steve Rainbolt, Rotary Club president. "It is one way we can foster and reward students having an interest in speech techniques. One student moves on to the next level but all of the participants gain experience speaking before an adult audience. That takes a lot of courage for a teenager."

"Christmas for Kids is so special and wonderful to watch the children receive their gifts, and of course, meet Santa Claus. Our club members, their family and friends, Interactors from community high schools, other sponsors and volunteers will actively man the Christmas for Kids event. Christmas for Kids is an uplifting event that touches these children and all those that participate in so many different ways," he added.

About Richard D. King Youth Speech Contest, December 4, 2014

The Rotary Club of Santa Clara together with Rotary Clubs of District 5170 sponsors the Richard D. King Annual Youth Speech Contest each year. Our club will have students representing Santa Clara High School and Wilcox High School as speech contest participants in the first club level competition.

The contest is designed with three goals in mind for the club members and each speech contest participant:

- To increase personal knowledge and awareness of the importance of being able to speak effectively before a group.
- To increase public knowledge of what Rotary is and does throughout the world, especially among young people. Through this knowledge, we hope that they will learn, as we have in the past, “He profits most who serves best.”
- To increase participation in the contest and to provide all high school contestants and opportunity to win prizes as top public speaker, or runner-up, in District 5170.

The prizes are awarded with “no strings attached.” However, it is hoped that the award might be used to further the student’s education. Our goal as Rotarians is to recognize and to support these young people who are tomorrow’s leaders.

The prize structure is:

<u>Level of Contest</u>	<u>Level of Prize</u>	<u>Prize Amount</u>
Santa Clara Club	First	300.00
	Second	200.00
	Third	100.00
Area	First	200.00
	Second	100.00
Regional	First	250.00
	Second	250.00
District	First	1,000.00
	Second	500.00
	Third/Fourth	250.00

Eligibility: Contests are open to student speakers in grades 9 through 12 who attend a local public or private high school within District 5170

Original Work of Student: The speech must be the original work of the contestant.

Theme: The theme for the speech shall be, “**Light Up Rotary**” The theme must be clearly identified in the speech and need not be the topic for the speech.

Topic: Each student may choose any topic he or she feels is timely and of interest, as long as the content of the speech relates to the theme of “**Light Up Rotary**” and incorporates at least one of the principles of Rotary’s ethical guide for Rotarians commonly referred to as the **4-Way Test**.

About “Christmas for Kids”, December 11, 2014

The Rotary Club of Santa Clara has hosted Christmas for Kids for over 10 years and directly touches over 150 children. The event is sponsored in part through the efforts of the Rotary Club of Santa Clara and its very own Santa Clara Rotary Foundation, which raises money through several fundraising events, including the annual Northern California Silicon Valley Barbecue Championships (www.svbbq.com).

We provide gift- wrapped presents and new winter jackets to some very special children from our local schools in the Santa Clara Unified School District.

Members of our club donate their time and those representing businesses to foster this special holiday occasion include – Lexus of Stevens Creek (www.lexusstevenscreek.com), Lexus of Stevens Creek will graciously host the Christmas for Kids event at their dealership facility. Royal Coach Tours (www.royal-coach.com) will provide round trip transportation. Holder’s Country Inn San Jose (www.holderscountryinn.com) will donate and provide a hearty lunch, as the children and others await a special visit from a little portly man in a red suit! Santa Claus comes to Santa Clara Rotary and its guests on this very special day.

About The Rotary Club of Santa Clara)

The Rotary Club of Santa Clara, (www.santaclararotary.org) established in 1936, is dedicated to serving the local and world community. Composed of business and community leaders, the club designs its many projects to represent the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

Santa Clara Rotary supports the community with many projects: Steps for Success, Christmas for Kids, college scholarships, Enterprise Leadership Conference, Rotary Leadership Conference Interact and Rotaract clubs, speech contests, and special grants awarded to local organizations. In addition to making major financial contributions to the welfare of the city of Santa Clara, Rotarians have strongly supported many international projects such as the Rotary goal of global polio eradication.

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