

World Water Day Competition – Your Club could win \$500 for its WASH Projects!

What is World Water Day?

World Water is celebrated on March 22nd. It focuses on the approximately 1.8 billion people worldwide who must rely on water contaminated with feces, putting them at risk of contracting cholera, dysentery, typhoid, polio and other waterborne diseases.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals, launched in 2015, include a target to ensure everyone has access to safe water by 2030, making water a key issue in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty. In 1993, the UN General Assembly designated March 22nd as World Water Day. It is now a globally recognized event.

\$\$\$\$\$ - THE PRIZES!

**\$500 US for the best project
(i.e. the one with the most impact)**

**\$500 US for the most innovative
project**



What must you do?

Whatever works best for your community! In some areas March 22nd is in the middle of a dry season - or a monsoon. In the north, rivers may be frozen until Spring. The choice is yours! All we ask is that the project improve the quality of water and/or level of awareness of it in **YOUR** community. You could, for example:

- Clean up debris along a waterway, lake, creek, pond, stream, or other water source.
- Prevent erosion by planting trees and native plants along a water source.
- Build awareness in your community - encourage students to write essays on the importance of water and what THEY can do to protect it.
- Encourage farmers in your area to use eco-friendly chemicals that will not damage fragile water systems.
- If your community's water source is safe, eliminate plastic water bottles. If they are a necessity ensure they are collected and recycled appropriately.

Use your imagination! The bottom line is to educate your community on the importance of protecting its water sources. Get them involved!

Whenever possible, please consult with your local water or conservation authority to ensure that your efforts are compatible with conditions in your area! For example, cleaning a watercourse during spawning season could have a negative impact on fish stocks.

Need Ideas?

Go to the [World Water Day website](#). You will find a wealth of ideas to kick-start your project.

Share your story

Please use your project to celebrate World Water Day. You can promote it at your regular club meeting closest to March 22nd, 2018. WASRAG will share some of them in its monthly newsletter. And - why not tell your story to the Rotary world yourself? Go to the RI website and post it on Rotary Club Central and/or Rotary Showcase!

Who will judge the entries?

The members of WASRAG's Membership Satisfaction Team, including **Chris Etienne - USA (Chair), Salvador Rico – USA, Tom Bos - USA, Ada Cheng - Hong Kong, Rich Churchman - USA, Toro de Silva - Brazil, V.N. Singh - India, Ndukwe Chukwu - Nigeria and Rob Crabtree - New Zealand** will review all applications and submit a short-list of finalists to WASRAG's Operations Team.

How do you enter the competition?

Submit a brief description of your project to info@wasrag.org. Include what you are doing, the target audience and the expected impact of the project. Remember to tell us your Club name and District number and give us a contact name, email address and phone number. Some projects will be showcased on the WASRAG website.

DEADLINE & AWARDS:

Please submit all entries by May 1st, 2018. Winners will be notified by May 31st, 2018 and the awards presented at WASRAG's Annual General Meeting, Saturday June 23rd, 2018, 8.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. in Room 809 of the Toronto Convention Centre.

HOW IT ALL STARTED!

Many of you will have read the fantastic story of the Rotary Club of South Ukiah (California) District 5130's "[Cleaning the Rivers of the World](#)" program in WASRAG's October 2017 Newsletter.

Spearheaded by passionate water champion **Salvador Rico**, the South Ukiah club challenged Rotary clubs around the world to clean up rivers in their communities. Inspired by Salvador and his club's efforts, WASRAG now invites you and your club to get involved in water - and maybe win some funding for your water projects!