

Interact District Council 5160

Sponsored by Rotary District 5160

interactdistrict5160@gmail.com | 510-672-4693



District
Council
5160

Rotarians, community leaders, friends,

Our names are Darcy Coulter and Swetha Sankar. This year, we have the incredible privilege of serving Interact 5160 as its District Governors. Our council is composed of 25 dedicated and passionate members, all rooted in the same philosophy that has driven the unparalleled success of Rotary as a global volunteer organization for over a century: service above self. With this philosophy in mind, and in the spirit of collaboration, our council embarks on a district-wide service project every year. This service project encompasses over 60 Interact clubs throughout Northern California, all working together in an effort to make the world a better place. For this year's project, we decided to focus our efforts on the preserving biodiversity hotspots. We are proud to announce that our District Service Project for 2017-2018 will be the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Earth's wildlife faces a huge threat to its biodiversity. Within the last 40 years, Earth has lost 52 percent of its biodiversity.¹ In the same time period, the human population has nearly doubled.¹ During the past few centuries, increased industrial activity and the global population boom have interfered and consequently damaged the ecosystems of many of our world's most precious species. As a result, our wildlife is constantly at risk for extinction. With data showing an annual decline of 2 percent of biodiversity, it is likely wildlife populations will drop to 67 percent by 2020.¹ Unfortunately, extinction doesn't just harm the species itself; it causes an imbalance that creates a chain reaction affecting not only the ecosystem of the species, but also other co-existing ecosystems that depend on another. If action is not taken immediately, over 50% of the world's biodiversity is at stake.²

Since 1895, Wildlife Conservation Society has established their work in 60 different countries targeting over 240 protected regions to ultimately achieve their goal of preserving Earth's biodiversity and unifying humanity with nature.³ Under its 2020 Strategy plan, WCS aims to focus on these protected biodiversity hotspots and expand its conservation field programs at various zoos, aquariums, and natural habitat zones all over the world.³ However, their work cannot be possible without the support of community-minded people, and we believe that both Interactors and Rotarians of District 5160 are the group to fulfill that role.

This year, District Council 5160 is asking you and your local Rotary Club to join our efforts to raise funds for WCS. These funds will aid WCS in saving endangered wildlife and preserving the Earth's natural habitats. If financial donations are not feasible, raising awareness about the WCS would be appreciated. Our hope is that you will take the pledge and match funds alongside your Interact Club to donate at the end of the year. For doing any of these things, we offer you our deepest gratitude.

To learn more about District Council 5160, feel free to visit www.interact5160.org. For more information about Wildlife Conservation Society, visit <https://www.wcs.org/>. Please contact us at interactdistrict5160@gmail.com with any questions or inquiries about pledging.

Yours in Service,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "Darcy Coulter" and the second is "Swetha Sankar". Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darcy Coulter and Swetha Sankar
District Governors of Interact District Council 5160

¹http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/lpr_2016/

²<http://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/Impact-of-Ecosystem-Destruction>

³<https://www.wcs.org/our-work/protect>

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Interact District Council 5160 Pledge Form

Name: _____

Name of Rotary Club: _____

Name of Interact Club: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Are you matching funds with your local Interact Club? Yes No

Desired Pledge Amount: \$ _____

Additional questions about pledging?

*All checks are to be made out to **Interact District 5160** by Friday, May 11th, 2018 and attention to **Rebecca Phuong** at the above address.

¹http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/lpr_2016/

²<http://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/Impact-of-Ecosystem-Destruction>

³<https://www.wcs.org/our-work/protect>