

Why Toastmasters?

Can you always say what you really mean? Are you a bit apprehensive about speaking out in meetings? If so, you are in good company.

Do you always listen to people? Do you always hear what they're trying to say? If not, you are in good company.

Can you respond well to ad hoc questions? Do you provide feedback in a way that others are excited and willing to become even more active? Do you run meetings as effectively as you want to? Are you the leader you want to be? These, too, are areas that most everyone can improve on.

Everyone can benefit from improving in these areas. Toastmasters will show you how to become a confident, effective speaker, a listener, an evaluator, and run interesting and effective meetings through an enjoyable, thoroughly professional program. Adults learn best by doing, and that's how Toastmasters works. It provides a safe environment for you to start speaking.

Brief History of Toastmasters International

In October 1924, a group of men assembled by Dr. Ralph C. Smedley met in the basement of the YMCA in Santa Ana, Calif., forming a club "to afford practice and training in the art of public speaking and in presiding over meetings, and to promote sociability and good fellowship among its members." The group took the name "Toastmasters."

Today, Toastmasters International is a non-profit organization, which gives its members the opportunity to develop and improve their public speaking abilities through local club meetings, training seminars and speech contests. Toastmasters International includes more than 270,000 members in 13,000 clubs in 116 countries.

Toastmasters Program

Your journey starts with the basic Toastmasters Communication and Leadership Programs, a series of speech projects designed to help you learn and practice public speaking as well as leadership skills. Each project builds on the preceding assignments. Completing the basic manual earns you the Competent Communicator Award from Toastmasters International! Completing the Leadership Manual earns you the Competent Leader Award from Toastmasters International!

The opportunities do not stop when you complete the basic manual. The advanced manuals and projects are geared to your specific personal and/or career needs. Advanced Communicator Awards, Advanced Leadership Awards and Distinguished Toastmaster Award await those who complete specific leadership and service requirements.

Every Toastmaster receives a monthly magazine, ***The Toastmaster***, which features helpful and informative articles, ideas, and opinions on communication and leadership. Many members regard the magazine alone is worth the price of membership.