

ACC Toastmasters Club

Frequently Asked Questions



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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ACC Toastmasters Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who should sign up?** ACC Toastmasters is an Organization club; therefore, employees who are full-time, part-time, and retirees are eligible to join. This answers the job status question of 'who' should sign up. Now, let's address the question of the 'type' of individual that should join Toastmasters. One of the biggest misconceptions about Toastmasters is that it is a program for speakers to get together and practice speaking. Since most people do not do any public speaking aside from the occasional meeting or toast at a wedding, they see the weekly meetings as being a considerable investment for unsure benefits. Unfortunately what most people do not understand is that the skills learned in mastering public speaking and leadership are core skills we use many times every single day. Instead of thinking about doing a big presentation with the skills learned through Toastmasters, think about something as simple as talking with a group of friends or family. Many people who have labeled themselves 'introverts' or lack social skills can find Toastmasters to be a fantastic place to rapidly improve their communication skills. Even if the individual is currently a very sociable person, Toastmasters can teach that person to improve his/her skills and give him/her the confidence that comes from being a competent speaker. Toastmasters is also a great place to make friends and meet new people. Organization clubs such as ACC Toastmasters facilitates it even more. One of the reasons Toastmasters makes it easier to meet people is because there is a strong emphasis on being very supportive of the people around you. It's too bad that this attitude is not ingrained in all our dealings with other people, because it really makes it much easier to make friends. Another reason Toastmasters is a great place to meet people is because there is mutually positive feedback between members. By giving and receiving positive feedback, rapport is established much more quickly.
- **Why was ACC Toastmasters established?** To provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.
- **Do members get home assignments?** Once an employee becomes a member, s/he takes an assessment through Toastmasters and is then assigned a path inside of the Pathways Learning Experience Education system.
- **How is the pathway assigned?** Pathways is Toastmasters education program. It is designed to help each member build the competencies they need to communicate and lead. It gives each member the opportunity to build up to 300 unique competencies. There are 10 specialized learning paths to choose from. To start, a member must take an online assessment to help him/her decide which path is right for him/her. The 10 available paths to choose from are:
 1. Dynamic Leadership
 2. Effective Coaching
 3. Innovative Planning
 4. Leadership Development
 5. Motivational Strategies
 6. Persuasive Influence
 7. Presentation Mastery

8. Strategic Relationships
9. Team Collaboration
10. Visionary Communication.

Each path is made up of five levels that increase in complexity. The program is designed this way so members are always building on what they previously learn at each level. All learning paths contain the following levels:

1. Level 1: Mastering Fundamentals
2. Level 2: Learning Your Style
3. Level 3: Increasing Knowledge
4. Level 4: Building Skills
5. Level 5: Demonstrating Expertise

Every path has required and elective projects. Path recognition is achieved when a member completes 14 projects across 5 levels – a combination of 10 required projects and 4 elective projects chosen from a comprehensive list covering a variety of subjects. Each project includes at least one speech. Though members are required to complete 4 elective projects, they have the option to complete as many as they would like.