

Sam J. Riklin Rotary Diploma Plus Program



The Rotary Club of San Antonio and member Sam J. Riklin began the Diploma Plus Program in 1991. The goal of Diploma Plus is to keep at-risk and financially challenged students in school until graduation. The Rotary Club of San Antonio believes that students who are committed to achieve an education, especially when faced with adversity, are more likely to become productive members of our community. The Club reinforces their commitment by awarding \$100 stipends during their senior year plus \$100 upon graduation, for a total of \$1,000.

Rotary works with school guidance counselors and teachers to identify potential recipients during the candidate's junior year. We require written applications to be submitted by the candidates that are reviewed by a committee of club members and local educators. Students who receive stipends are mentored monthly during their senior year. They must maintain at least a "C" average and a 95% attendance rate to remain eligible to receive their monthly stipend. To date over 90% of the recipients have graduated.

Rotary Diploma Plus is a unique partnership between Rotary and the public sector to address the crisis of drop-outs in our community. A student who makes a commitment to finish high school will be more likely to attend college.



ROTARY CLUB OF SAN ANTONIO
110 BROADWAY, SUITE 220
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205



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COUNSELORS RESPONSIBILITIES

**COUNSELORS AND ROTARY
HELPING MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN A
STUDENTS LIFE.**



THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAN ANTONIO
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Dear Counselor,

As a high school counselor, you have many demands on your time. We know, through it all, your main concern is the welfare of your students.

The Rotary Club of San Antonio is honored to have some of your students participate in the Sam J. Riklin Rotary Diploma Plus program. Our main concern is to help these students financially through the scholarship and offer them support through the mentoring program.

We rely on your help throughout the process – from applications to mentoring. Your participation is key to the success of the program.

There are three main areas of responsibility for a counselor:

- The application process
- Reporting requirements
- Mentoring program

This brochure outlines the process and the timelines. Please use it as a reference guide and reminder.

Thank you for all you do for your students and for your participation in this program.

Sincerely,
The Rotary Club of San Antonio



The Application Process

In October applications are mailed directly to area high schools. Counselors are asked to select 10 students who are considered at risk of not graduating from high school. Completed applications are due back to the Rotary office by Friday, December 16, 2011.

Reporting Requirements

Counselors are contacted at the beginning of each school year to confirm the student is registered and is classified as a senior. Based on your districts calendar, counselors will then be contacted every 6-9 weeks to obtain the students grades and number of unexcused absences. Once this information is received by the Rotary office, checks are mailed directly to the counselor for disbursement to the students. Checks are not mailed unless information is received.

Youth Mentoring

Through our Youth Mentoring Program a Rotary member will be paired with a Diploma Plus Student. These mentors will meet weekly with students at the school campus. Our mentors can help provide useful life skills to your students.

Counselors are contacted by the Rotary Club of San Antonio at the beginning of each school year to begin the mentoring process. We ask that you alert the parent and the student of this opportunity.

Although the scholarship does not require students be a part of the mentoring program, we hope that you will encourage students and parents to take advantage of this opportunity.

2012-2013 Timeline

- 10-6-11** Applications mailed to area high schools.
- 12-16-11** Completed applications due to Rotary office by 4PM.
- 2-17-12** Winners and Counselors are notified by mail of acceptance.
- 5-2-12** Awards Luncheon for student,
- 5-9-12** parent and counselor.
- 8-2012** Counselors are contacted within the first week of school to confirm student is enrolled. First check is mailed.

Counselors will be contacted every 6 to 9 weeks to obtain student grades and unexcused absences. Checks will be mailed after information is submitted.
- 6-2013** Students will receive their final check. This check will only be issued if the student is graduating.



For more information about this worthwhile program, contact

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