

COMMUNICATION

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Letters are still the easiest way to communicate. Include something small in the envelope.

Postcards to your Brother Club signed by all your club members.

Video your club in action—a meeting night or working on a project. (*Remember, not all video systems are compatible.*)

Audio Tapes, Slides and Photos of your club's service and recreation activities and of your members, at home and work.

Exchange Club Bulletins, YMCA publications, newspapers.

Send small gifts and greetings for birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

Don't overlook simple items like trade and business—these may be of great interest to the members of your Brother Club.

Encourage members of each club with similar vocations or professions to exchange ideas and experiences.

Visit your Brother Club, if possible, when travelling.

Telephone calls on special occasions (*but remember seasonal and time differences*).

HOW TO KEEP THE BROTHER CLUB PROGRAMME INTERESTING

- Plan ahead—and involve as many members as possible.
- Keep in touch—even if your Brother Club is slow to respond.
- Persevere—remember cultural differences need tolerance, patience and understanding.
- Share all exchanges with club members.
- Remember your International Team is interested in every partnership in Y'sdom—your successful programme could help to inspire other clubs.
- Seek publicity—good public relations are important for your club.

COMBINED PROJECTS

Always remember!

**When Brother Clubs
cooperate in projects
the Brother Club Programme
becomes more meaningful.**

INTERNATIONAL BROTHER CLUBS



PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

WHAT IS A BROTHER CLUB?

The Brother Club programme joins in partnership clubs located in different countries for their mutual benefit and understanding. It is designed to assist fellow Y's Men, Y's Women and families to learn about other clubs and exchange ideas, whether they are just over the border or right across the world.

HOW DID BROTHER CLUBS START?

1947—At the Toledo USA Convention former Service Director Carl Bergstrom recommended that lapel pins be presented to members of overseas clubs sponsored by North American clubs.

Battle Creek Club, Michigan, was the first to do so with pins for visiting Y's Man Alberta Merubia to take to his club in La Paz, Bolivia.

The idea developed for two clubs in different countries to adopt each other as "Brother Clubs."

1948—Pacific Southwest and Oregon clubs had Brother Clubs in Japan and Korea.

1949—Rapid growth in the programme meant that a committee was needed and the first chairman, Gale Crosgrove, was appointed.

1950—83 partnerships were arranged.

By April 2002 over 700 clubs from all around the world were participating.

WHY HAVE A BROTHER CLUB?

- To give every individual in Y'sdom a chance to be active in a programme promoting world peace and Christianity.
- To foster closer relationships within the movement.
- To develop better understanding between clubs.
- To break barriers of isolation—you'll never be alone with "Brother Clubs" to give you encouragement, support and stimulation.
- To exchange ideas.
- To learn another language.

WHEN CAN A BROTHER CLUB START?

As soon as you are ready.

New clubs are now invited by the International Service Director to consider this exciting and rewarding programme by their first birthday.

Your Regional Service Director for International Brother Clubs will contact every club in September each year asking for applications.

However, your club is welcome to apply at any time for a "Brother Club."

HOW CAN A CLUB JOIN THE PROGRAMME?

1. Select a committee of reliable and enthusiastic members, led by a capable Club Service Director. (All club members can be involved.)
2. Application forms for a Brother Club are available from your Regional Service Director for International Brother Clubs.
3. If your club already has a certain partnership in mind, fill out a form and send it directly to the club concerned.

Please also inform the Regional and Area Service Directors.

4. If your club wants to form a relationship with any club send your request to your Regional Service Director for International Brother Clubs. Clearly state your reasons and in which Area/Region you wish to participate.

A copy to the International Service Director please.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. Once the Brother Club relationship is established your Area Service Director should be asked to mail you the certificates available to formalise the special occasion.



2. The Club President fills in the certificates and sends them to the Brother Club for counter-signing by the Club President.

WAYS TO START A BROTHER CLUB PARTNERSHIP

- During travel.
- As a visiting Brotherhood Fund Delegate.
- At Area or International Conventions.
- Via Brother Club agencies at Conventions.
- Through advertisements in Area publications.

(In all cases the application procedure must be followed.)