

ROTARY GOLDEN ROUND TABLE

"Spotlight on Youth"

(Boys and Girls Week)

NOTE: This script should be adapted to fit the local circumstances:

- a) If successful Boys and Girls Weeks have been held in the past, actual examples and illustrations should be used.
- b) If plans are being made for a Boys and Girls Week in 1955, those plans should be worked into the script.
- c) If the Week has not been observed locally, and no plans are being made for 1955, it will be necessary to modify this script to talk about what a Boys and Girls Week could accomplish.

ANNCR: The Rotary Club of (Name City) in cooperation with Radio Station _____ brings you a projection of the drama you have just heard--a discussion by local community leaders of the community projects and problems dramatized on Rotary Golden Theatre. This (Name City) Rotary Golden Round Table is a local contribution to the world-wide observance of Rotary International's fiftieth anniversary. You have just heard a story about Boys and Girls Week, a project sponsored by Rotary Clubs in many communities. This brings to mind questions of local interest.

VOICE: (OFF) How do (Name City) boys and girls compare with youngsters of other communities?

SECOND VOICE: (OFF) What good will a Boys and Girls Week observance accomplish for (Name City)?

ANNCR: These are good questions, and I shall not attempt to answer them. This will be done by members of today's panel:

Mr. A _____, (Identification) _____;

Mr. B _____, (Identification) _____;

and Mr. C _____, (Identification) _____,

all of whom are members of the Rotary Club of (Name City).

Gentlemen, we are grateful to you for the suggestions and plans which you are about to present. You may wish to give me a belated answer to the question a spokesman for a teen-aged group asked me not long ago. That question was, "Why do radio commentators and newspaper reporters treat teen-agers like a bunch of freaks or misfits? The only time we rate special attention is when some of us get into trouble."

ANNCR: (CONT.) I didn't have a satisfactory answer to that question and accusation. Maybe you can help me. How about it, Mr. A?

MR. A: Well, I don't think the accusation was completely justified. I know that whenever our Rotary Club is working with teen-agers and we go to the press and radio for help, we get it. Both media seem delighted to give boys and girls a pat on the back.

ANNCR: But you'll have to admit that a story about vandalism or juvenile delinquency usually gets plenty of publicity.

MR. A: Such stories are news, and the public should know about it when there's a breakdown of juvenile morals. (We can't do much about correcting an evil if we are not aware that it exists. But I think that stories about teen-agers in trouble rate the space they get because these are unusual stories. They are variations from the normal. Most of the boys and girls in (Name City) don't get into any trouble. When one does, it's news. I certainly hope it will never become so commonplace that the papers won't bother to cover it.

ANNCR: I'd never thought of it from that viewpoint.

MR. B: Well, that viewpoint leads right into the purpose of Boys and Girls Week. The really wonderful things that our boys and girls are accomplishing are too often taken for granted. Let someone make the statement that 2% of the boys and girls of a community are delinquent and we are shocked. How much better it would be if we said that 98% of the boys and girls had never been in serious trouble of any kind. Also, the adults who give their time and money and thought to youth activities don't always get the recognition they merit.

MR. C: They're not after recognition, but that's no sign they don't deserve it. As more people are informed about (Name City) youth work, the easier it will be to enlist people who will volunteer to take a hand in it.

ANNCR: Mr. C, exactly what is Boys and Girls Week?

MR. C: The title of the Rotary Golden Theatre play we just heard was "Spotlight on Youth"--and that's what Boys and Girls Week is--a spotlight on constructive youth activities right here in (Name City.) It's a week when the Rotary Club, the schools, the churches and the community as a whole unite their efforts to spotlight good citizenship requirements, health and safety, career guidance, religious adherence, the need for international understanding and the like--in short the pillars of our way of life--so vital in the lives of teen-agers.

MR. A: It's not entirely a Rotary project and we don't want it to be. It's really an event for boys and girls--and it must be their show, not ours. It is a school event, and it must be a community event if it is to be successful.

ANNCR: But the Rotary Club handles it?

MR. C: It involves the cooperation and participation of a great many people in our community. You might say that the Rotary Club is the instigator of the project. But the decision as to whether or not (Name City) has a successful Boys and Girls Week is not ours.

ANNCR: Who does take the responsibility?

MR. B: The boys and girls of our town. You see, the thousands of Rotary Clubs all over the world have a vast backlog of experience--and they have learned one thing about working with boys and girls.

ANNCR: What is that?

MR. B: That you defeat your purpose when you work for the boys and girls of a community. You must work with them. Youngsters are intelligent, and you can't expect them to be enthusiastic about anything that is forced upon them. Neither can you expect them to appreciate anything that they get without thought or effort. Unless they want a Boys and Girls Week and are willing to work on the project, it can't possibly be successful.

ANNCR: I know in general what a Boys and Girls Week observance is--but what is its real purpose?

MR. A: The first objective, as we've already mentioned, is to focus attention on local boys and girls activities. Second, and mighty important, the week can give year-round impetus to character-building activities. A third purpose is to emphasize the importance of a sound body, a trained mind and spiritual growth in the development of boys and girls--and the fourth objective is to emphasize the need for instilling in boys and girls the love of our country and respect for its laws.

ANNCR: How can a special week accomplish that?

MR. C: It can't-- unless youth is eager to learn. And if they honestly want a Boys and Girls Week, they become eager to learn.

ANNCR: What form will Boys and Girls Week take in (Name City)?

MR. B: We can't answer that question, because the answer is up to the young people who take part in the event. Some of the projects we heard about in the

MR. B: (CONT.) Rotary Golden Theatre play are great--but just as it was in that play, the boys and girls must decide. It's that method of handling the event that has made it successful wherever Rotary Clubs have sponsored such a week.

MR. A: The headquarters of Rotary International has a tremendous fund of information about these observances. Whenever a Rotary Club finds a Boys and Girls Week idea that proves successful, the chairman of the Boys and Girls Week Committee reports it--and the rest of the Rotary world can profit from this experience. Citizenship Day has been popular everywhere. Because of Rotary's international scope, we are particularly enthusiastic about International Understanding Day. Safety programs are decidedly worth-while. Churches of all denominations have been most cooperative about Family Day in Church. The scope of Boys and Girls Week can be as wide as the youngsters want to make it. The projects can be ambitious or simple. Whatever the boys and girls decide to do, we are delighted to help them set up and organize and coordinate their activities.

MR. C: This is one project where no adult is interested in taking any credit. Our job is to offer help and guidance.

ANNCR: Assuming that (Name City) has a Boys and Girls Week observance, can you give us some idea of what you would do. Mr. A, I understand that you are chairman of Rotary's Boys and Girls Week Committee in (Name City).

MR. A: That's right.

ANNCR: What would you plan to do to make Boys and Girls Week a success here in (Name City)?

MR. A: Our first job would be organization. We would want to bring in leaders of every youth activity in the community to work with the boys and girls. (HE THEN DISCUSSES ACTUAL OR THEORETICAL PLANS FOR HIS COMMITTEE)

ANNCR: Has anything been done as yet to make a (Name City) Boys and Girls Week a reality?

MR. A: Yes, indeed. (OUTLINES PLANS)

ANNCR: That sounds fine--and it also sounds like a lot of work. Mr. B, do you think a (Name City) Boys and Girls Week can really accomplish anything of importance?

MR. B: I certainly do. If it does nothing else, it helps to keep a good many worthwhile youth activities active the year round. Adults need to be

MR. B: (CONT.) reminded of many young people's activities, and this week is a definite and forceful reminder. I feel that we can and should make the project an annual event to recognize the entire year's work by every youth activity in (Name City).

ANNCR: That's a good idea. Mr. C, do you think this special week can accomplish anything else?

MR. C: It certainly can. It can bring more boys and girls into every (Name City) youth activity. That will mean fewer newspaper and radio stories about juvenile delinquency. When boys and girls are busy on wholesome youth activities, they don't have the time or the inclination to get into trouble. If we could encourage every boy and girl in (Name City) to become active in some youth project, we wouldn't have any juvenile delinquency. It's been our experience that youngsters have a lot more fun in organized youth activity than they ever get from spontaneous mischief. You can't take any pride in getting into trouble. There's no real satisfaction in making a nuisance of yourself. We have found that the so-called "problem" boys and girls cease to be problems if you get them interested in some youth project. Instead of wasting their energies and getting into trouble, they profit from their activities.

MR. B: Yes, the more boys and girls we encourage to get into (Name City) youth activities, the better community we will have. And there is another group we would like to interest--the parents. When parents work with their boys and girls, they create a spirit that money can't buy. I've had fathers and mothers tell me that they didn't really know or understand their children until they joined their youngsters in some youth activity. There is plenty of opportunity for parents to take part in Boys and Girls Week, too. Every youngster who is active in the week's observance will need help....and if that help comes from home, it can build better family relationships.

ANNCR: Well, gentlemen, you've certainly sold me. And I'm sure that everyone in (Name City) will be glad to get behind a Boys and Girls Week. It could be the biggest week of the year for our youngsters. On behalf of this radio station, I know you can count on our cooperation.

MR. A: Thank you. It's easy to get enthusiastic about Boys and Girls Week--and that enthusiasm can help (Name City's) youth program throughout the year.

ANNCR: I'm sure it will. And that just about winds up this session of Rotary Golden Round Table. Next week, Rotary Golden Theatre will present a drama built around a problem that affects all of us. And then, immediately following, Rotary Golden Round Table will present a discussion of that problem as it applies to (Name City). Our panel for next week's local participation in Rotary's Golden Anniversary observance will consist of (NAMES AND IDENTIFICATIONS OF PANEL MEMBERS)--all of whom are well qualified to discuss the subject to be presented.

ANNCR: (CONT.) Be sure to join us again next week for another program presented by the Rotary Club of (Name City) and Station _____ as a public service--in your interest.