

WASH NEWS

WASH ROTARY ACTION GROUP

World Water Day - March 22



Since 1993, the United Nations has recognized March 22 as World Water Day, to bring attention to the importance of clean water. The theme this year is "Save Our Glaciers."

At first, you may not think that relates to the activities of the WASH Rotary Action Group. However, it might.
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Community-Driven Water Solution

WASH Ambassador, Asher Ali, District 3271, Pakistan, provides a story about how 40,000 people have cool, clean water through Community-Driven solutions.

If you have a story about a successful WASH project, or even better, a project that failed, as we have to learn from our mistakes, contact info@wash-rag.org.

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2025 Colorado WASH Symposium

Since 2012, a small interdisciplinary group of students interested in issues in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector from the Colorado University - Boulder campus have coordinated a two-day symposium.

This year, the Symposium is **March 13-14**, the keynote speakers

are Dr. Matt Bentley and Ms. Sabrina Rashid Sheonty. Dr. Bentley will discuss key differences in delivering WASH interventions and services in humanitarian settings, while Ms. Sheonty, founder of Tetra, a water startup, will explore WASH challenges in climate-vulnerable developing countries and communities.

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Project WET

Drilling a borehole and putting in a pump is not what makes a successful WASH project. A lot of education has to happen to teach about handwashing, water conservation, and so much more.

That is where an organization like Project WET <https://www.projectwet.org/> can offer so much assistance. They have excellent resources on a variety of WASH topics available for students, teachers, and adults.

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Roll Out the Barrel

In too many places, water still has to be carried in a container every day. Until a longer-term solution becomes available, finding a better way to get water from the water source to the home is important.

Adrian Brewer, Rotary Club of Vectis Sunrise Newport, Isle of Wight, UK, has been involved for twenty years in the creation of an easy-to-pull 30-liter plastic barrel. The Rotary Water Barrel is currently being made in Nairobi, Kenya. They estimate that there are over 11,000 of the Rotary Water Barrels being used throughout the world.

To learn more about these barrels visit: <https://rolloutthebarrel.org/>



How Safe is Water

As part of a Rotary project, we might build a sand dam to create a water reserve, or construct an open-topped tank, create a sewage lagoon, and build flush toilets. All of these can be a safety hazard.

Drowning is the second-largest cause of death globally for people of all ages. For children under five, it is the leading cause of death.

When we create an open water source, we need to fence it off. When bringing water to communities, we need to educate parents that two minutes in two inches of water can drown a child.

<https://www.swimstrongfoundation.org/> provides lots of good resources on water safety.



2025 People of WASH Photo and Video Competition

With \$1,500 in prize money, the 2025 People of WASH Photograph and Video Competition is now open for submissions. Follow this link to get more details: <https://www.wash-rag.org/photo-contest/>

Prize Money

Photograph - First - \$300, Second - \$150 and Third \$75

Video - First - \$600, Second - \$300, and Third \$150



We will be using submissions on WASH-RAG promotional and educational materials, so there are great bragging rights in addition to the prize money.

Technical Assessments Grant

The WASH-RAG Professional Services Committee, through a generous grant from the Wallace Genetics Foundation, can provide a grant (up to \$1,200 per club) to cover the cost of required "front-end" technical assessments that a Global Grant cannot fund.

Technical Assessments that might be required include hydrogeologic studies of groundwater, test drilling, and engineering designs. This grant can not be used for Community Assessments.

To learn more and apply, visit [Technical Assessment Grant](#) on our webpage.

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Calendar of Events

13-14 Mar - Colorado WASH Symposium
22 Mar 2025 - World Water Day
1-3 May 2025 - Dist 5960 - Make Peace Visible Conference
15-17 May - Uniendo America Project Fair (Panama)
28 May 2025 - World Menstrual Hygiene Day
21 Jun 2025 - World Water Summit 17, Calgary
24 - 28 Aug - World Water Week (Stockholm)
15 Oct 2025 - Global Handwashing Day
24 Oct 2025 - World Polio Day



19 Nov 2025 - World Toilet Day

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Submit your stories, videos, and pictures for upcoming Newsletters to us at info@wash-rag.org.

WASH-RAG reserves the right to edit stories for length and content. By submitting a story you give us permission to publish and make public your contact information including but not limited to your email or club's website.

The WASH Rotary Action Group is pleased to consider partnerships with any corporate supporter. Due to the unique attributes of water sources and water provision, accepting corporate support does not imply an endorsement of any particular water technology. Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and Rotary partners must evaluate any technology to determine if it is the best solution for the conditions where the program will be implemented. The WASH Rotary Action Group can provide guidance about where different technologies work best, but Rotarians and Rotary clubs must decide how to implement their programs.

This Rotary Action Group is recognized and operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International. To learn more please contact the WASH Rotary Action Group by email at info@wash-rag.org. Thank you.

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