

## Toastmasters District 26

# Pathways: Best Club Practices

Objective: Help clubs become successful by providing the best possible learning experience for members.

Offered to clubs as a guideline to increase success with the Toastmasters Educational Program - Pathways

## Prospective Members

1. Is Information shared with guests about Toastmasters and **Pathways** current, up to date and professional? Is club making best 1st impression? Materials to consider:

Find Your Voice <https://www.toastmasters.org/shop/marketing/brochures/99--Find-Your-Voice>

Your Path to Leadership. <https://www.toastmasters.org/shop/marketing/brochures/101--Your-Path-to-Leadership>

All About Toastmasters <https://www.toastmasters.org/shop/marketing/brochures/124--All-About-Toastmasters>

Benefits of Toastmasters <https://www.toastmasters.org/shop/marketing/fliers/354F--The-Benefits-of-Toastmasters-Membership>

Complete Guest Packet <https://www.toastmasters.org/shop/meetings/new-members-and-guests/387--Guest-Packet>



2. Does the club promote what the members can experience in Pathways?  
Overview of Pathways - paths and core competencies explained. Competency Based Program  
<https://www.toastmasters.org/pathways-overview>



Sharing this link allows anyone to click into each path. Tapping on the squares, each level is explained, and all projects in each path are listed. This link is found under the Pathways Tab/Learn More on the home page of Toastmasters International Website.

## New Members

1. Does the club regularly use a consistent process to integrate new members into the Pathways Learning Experience?

- Expectation of Toastmaster's International welcome email with start information  
This email directs new member to profile set up, new member web page and getting started with Path Selection

- Review of the Essential Guides for every Toastmaster.  
These guides accessible free as digital files, PDFs or can be purchased as printed manuals

### The "Navigator"

<https://www.toastmasters.org/login?ReturnURL=/the-navigator>

<https://www.toastmasters.org/shop/8722--The-Navigator>

### "Toastmaster Wears Many Hats"

<https://www.toastmasters.org/~media/0671EA621F1F4A00B58502E624E10188.ashx>

<https://www.toastmasters.org/shop/education/manuals/general-educational-items/1167D--A-Toastmaster-Wears-Many-Hats>

2. Does VPE meet with new members personally or virtually (e.g. Zoom or phone call) to learn about members' personal goals, share club info, recommend they get a mentor, explain the way projects build on one another to achieve competency and provide brief orientation to Pathways?

Briefly Review "Stumbling Blocks" sometimes encountered while working in Pathways

- Pop Up Blocker and expanding screens no longer a stumbling block
- 2nd Project Evaluation - is a 3 step process giving 2 Speeches and serving in the role of Evaluator
- Assessment at the beginning and end of every project is necessary to complete the Project and allow next project to open.

Briefly Explain Levels:

Level 1: Mastering Fundamentals - time spent here will serve members well on their journey

Level 2: Learning Your Style - raises self awareness and is first step toward selected competency

Level 3: Increases knowledge - a required project and 2 electives - Mentoring Path Opens

Level 4: Builds in complexity - a required project and one elective

Level 5: Demonstrating Expertise - most complex projects, some require group effort, some opportunity for outside Toastmasters completion

4. **Is the new member connected to a member who can advise in Pathways?** Either the VPE or volunteer member can be the “go to” person for questions regarding Pathways. Conduct session (personal or virtual) with new members for orientation if needed. <https://zoom.us>

**Seek support from District Pathways Advisor if needed. More than happy to help get this started in the club.**

5. **Are the Icebreaker and Evaluation/Feedback Project Speeches for new member scheduled as soon as possible?**

**Emphasize working/reading the project for learning important basics - not just “doing” the ice breaker.**

Ensuring the Evaluation project is completed in addition to the Ice Breaker means a new member can assume the valuable role of evaluator earlier in their Toastmaster Experience. These two projects are fundamental building blocks in the educational experience.

6. **What additional material does the club distribute to aid the new member? How is it made available?**

Consider making informational links or helpful PDF documents available on club website for easy access.

- Pathways Getting Started Guide - request PDF from District Pathways Advisor if needed or offer one created by the club
- Paths and Core Competencies - request PDF from District Pathways Advisor if needed
- Project Matrix - if needed request PDF or links from District Pathways Advisor
- Request other documents from Pathways Advisory Team to address a need.

## Recognition

1. **Does the club recognize Pathways accomplishments?**

Consider presenting certificates, (printed from within Pathways by Basecamp Manager) Ribbon Presentations

<https://www.toastmasters.org/shop/recognition/ribbons> - scroll to view all Ribbons are available for Levels, 1,2,3,4 & 5 and Path Completion Ribbons

Pathways Pins - 1st IceBreaker Speech or new member installation or **1st level completion**

<https://www.toastmasters.org/shop/recognition/pins/5880--Pathways-Pin>

Medals for completion of a Pathway

*Ensures employer (if requested) receives notification of Level Completions and accomplishments*

## Club Officer Responsibilities Key to club success!

1. As leaders, are **all club officers in Pathways?** Take assessment/select a Path - minimum. Selection of Path can be completed in 15 minutes. Completion of Level 1 provides good base to support fellow members properly. Members can be in Traditional program at the same time.
2. Do club officers speak about Pathways with enthusiasm during the meetings?
3. Do club officers support and reinforce the progress of members? Seek&share SUCCESS STORIES
4. Do club officers share club needs/successes with Area Director?

## Vice President of Education

1. Does the VPE understand **how to verify level completions in Pathways** as Base Camp Manager?
2. Does the VPE understand important need to **also submit level accomplishment** on Toastmasters International under Club Central?  
Both level completion and submission can be done by any Base Camp Manager Pres, VPE, Sec
3. Is the club aware of access to District Resources? Pathways Advisor's Contact Information?

## Meeting Time and Miscellaneous

1. **If club does written audience evaluations, are forms used incorporating Pathways criteria?**
2. If club has Meeting Tip Time - tips for working in Pathways could be added occasionally
3. Share the success STORIES of members and what they have learned in Pathways.
4. Table Topics - consider occasionally incorporating questions regarding experiences in Pathways
5. Consider other club incentives, games to make it fun.
6. Google or other search engines are great way to find tools from other Districts and Toastmasters International

**For Help Contact: Toastmasters District 26 Pathways Advisor and the Pathways Advisory Team**

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