



Rotary Youth Leadership Award 2009 Club Packet

Introduction & Conference Overview

Rotary Clubs of District 6250, it's time to begin planning for the 6th annual Rotary Youth Leadership (RYLA) Conference. The 2009 conference will be held at Camp Manito-wish YMCA in Boulder Junction on May 15 through May 17.

This Club Packet is designed to give you information about the conference and provide you with some useful tools for the recruitment and selection process.

The RYLA program is very demanding, so please interview each candidate thoroughly in an effort to select the best prepared young leader. The selection of good conferees is an essential element in the over all success of the RYLA program. Consider sending the enclosed Nomination Form to your local high school principals, guidance counselors, and advisors of FFA, FBLA, FCCLA, Skills USA, DECA, NHS, Student Council and other student organizations. These school leaders can assist with recruitment of students who could transfer the leadership skills and knowledge they gain at RYLA to their respective organizations.

RYLA objectives are to:

- ⌚ give communities the opportunity to recognize young people who demonstrate leadership in service to their communities
- ⌚ encourage and develop young leaders and potential leaders by providing them with a meaningful leadership training experience
- ⌚ demonstrate Rotary respect and concern for our youth.

We are looking for interested, sincere, well rounded potential leaders. It is designed for students who are sophomores this school year. The person/ you select will represent your club in a leadership training program with approximately 75 other young leaders from around our District.

Collaborative leadership will be the keynote of the program. There will be discussions, challenging interactive activities, evening social events and more.

The conference will be facilitated by Rotarians and Camp Manito-wish staff assisted by qualified educators and leaders in the areas business, law, government and community.

Club Responsibilities

Review this packet to become familiar with the program and enclosed tools and recourse materials.

Promote and publicize the program to organizations who could recommend candidates for the selection process. Involve other club members and visit as many principals, councilors, Y's, Scouts and other organizations as you can. Spread the word.

Manage the interview and selection process at the club level. Interview as many candidates as possible and select your participants. Please consider selecting at least one alternate participant.

Pay the sponsorship fee of \$225.00 per participant (up to 4 participants per club) to "RYLA Conference, Dist 6250 R.I."

Arrange transportation for your selected participant/s to and from the conference.

This year we are going to be chartering a bus traveling to and from Manito-wish via the I-94/I-39 corridor. There will be a charge for students taking the bus to and from Manito-wish. The cost will be determined by the number of students utilizing the bus. The pick up and drop off points will be determined later.

Important Reminders:

Make reservations prior to Feb. 1, 2009. By this date we do not need the names of the candidates; only the number you plan to send.

Give RYLA District Committee the name/s of your selected participant/s by April 1, 2009.

Contact your selected participant to verify receipt and prompt return of the RYLA Participant Information Packet to be mailed separately.

Refund policy: The cancellation deadline is April 15, 2009. A full refund will be made for cancellations prior to this date. After April 15th we are contractually obligated to pay the fee to the camp and therefore are not able to refund the fee to the club.

Criteria & Selection

Criteria

- 1 Any young person regardless of race creed color, gender ...
- 2 Who is a high school sophomore in the 2008/09 term.
- 3 Who has demonstrated leadership potential in school, civic or other organizations.
- 4 Who has the desire to develop his or her leadership potential.
- 5 Who will contribute to a meaningful conference experience.
- 6 *Rotary family members are eligible.*

Selection Process

Please refer to the 2009 Club Action Plan on Page 5 for implementation “by the numbers.” The following paragraphs expand on key points on the Action Plan.

“Market blitz” the program. Seek nominations from schools, community groups and other organizations. Have your team visit as many principals, councilors, Y’s, Scouts, etc. as possible.

Distribute copies of the Youth Leader Nomination Form and other relevant informational pieces (see Appendix - copy as needed). Spread the word.

Conduct the interviews and final selection. The interview process should be rigorous and designed to help you determine if the candidate demonstrates qualities which might make him/her an effective leader. Has the candidate had opportunities to practice leadership in real life situations (emphasize quality of involvement rather than quantity). Is the candidate capable of expressing thoughts and feelings clearly and effectively? Will the candidate be open and adaptive enough to embrace the opportunity that is the conference?

Once you have notified us of your selected candidate, we will send a packet of information and various forms, directly to the candidate.

NOTE: At this point it will be important for you to follow up with the candidate to verify receipt, prompt completion, and return of this required information (see the 2009 Club Action Plan).

Important Notes: When selecting candidates please ensure they will be able to stay for the entire conference. Pick one or more alternates to ensure attendance. There will be no refunds after April 15, 2009.

Again, this program is very demanding, so please interview each candidate thoroughly in an effort to select the best prepared young leader. The selection of good conferees is an essential element in the over all success of the RYLA program.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award 2009 Club Action Plan

Identify your club's RYLA team and review the Club Packet	Dec 1, 2008
"Market blitz" the program (see <u>Selection Process</u>)	Jan 1, 2009
Reserve 1-4 spots for your anticipated participants by calling District chair, 608-374-4386 x204.	Feb 1, 2009
Interview candidates and make final selection, including alternates.	Mar 15, 2009
Give RYLA 6250 the names of your selected participants and alternates. Mail check.	Apr 1, 2009
Confirm participant attendance. No refunds made for cancellations after April 15, 2009.	April 15, 2009
Arrange for the selected participants to attend a Rotary meeting as your guest prior to the conference.	April 30, 2009
Conduct meeting to inform conferees and parents about conference and expectations.	May 1, 2009
Arrange for transportation to and from conference.	May 5, 200 (for May 15, 17)
After the conference arrange for participant to attend a club meeting to share their experience and thoughts and present the certificates that will be mailed to your club.	Fall 2009
Provide feedback to District 6250 RYLA Committee to aid in the 2009 planning process by returning questionnaire mailed to your club.	Sept 15, 2009

**RYLA Youth Leader Nomination
Camp Manito-wish YMCA, Boulder Junction
May 15-17, 2008**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____ Phone Number: _____
 Referring Organization Name: _____
 Referring Organization Contact: _____

Applicant Criteria

Always

Rarely

Attribute	1	2	3	4	5
Volunteers in school and/or community					
Demonstrates honesty, integrity, and dependability					
Serves as a role model for youth					
Demonstrates leadership in daily activities					
Works as a team player					
Demonstrates a positive attitude					

Site examples of the above qualities (attach additional pages as needed):

Why do you feel this young leader should attend the RYLA conference?

Deadline: March 15, 2009

Sample Interview Questions

The following are suggested questions; you will want to add questions of your own. The first group of questions is designed to stimulate discussion and put the candidate at ease. The second group is behavior based questions. There is no right or wrong answer, but are designed to measure judgment, leadership, ethics, etc (always ask for real situations, not “if this happened...what would you do” questions). The third group will also generate good discussion and allow you to further gauge the candidate readiness to attend the conference.

What are your hobbies or interests?

Do you have a favorite recreational or cultural activity, and if so, what is it?

How do you spend your free time?

What do you consider to be your most important personal accomplishment?

What do you consider a major issue facing youth today?

What do you consider to be one of your strengths? weaknesses?

Tell me about a time when someone criticized you or something you had done. What was the situation? How did it make you feel? And, what was the outcome?

Tell me about a very difficult assignment or project you had to get done. What was the project? How did you manage it? How did it turn out?

Tell me about a time when someone wanted you to do something you did not want to do. What was it? How did you handle it? What was the outcome?

Tell me about a time you were frustrated as part of a group project? What was the situation? What was your role on the project? How did it turn out?

What do you think the RYLA Conference will be like?

Why would you like to attend this leadership conference?

What do you think is a purpose for sending young people to a leadership conference?

What do you think you will contribute to the conference?

Other Questions:

(Sample Letter to School Principals, Guidance Counselors & Others)

Dear:

The Rotary Club of _____ is interested in community leadership, not only for today, but for tomorrow as well.

The students in your school will, in a very few years, be assuming some of your community's leadership roles. We know you are training them for the task. Rotary would like to help also. For this reason, the 61 Rotary Clubs in District 6250 will conduct their 6th annual youth leadership conference meeting at Camp Manito-wish, Boulder Junction, from May 15 through May 17, 2009.

It will be staffed by carefully selected counselors and teachers. Our objective is to offer outstanding high school sophomores an opportunity to live, work, and play together in an atmosphere of collaboration which will offer a challenge to accept the responsibility of leadership. Much of each student's time will be structured with programs such as group discussions, career guidance, high and low challenge courses, ethics and contemporary problems. The greatest benefit will come from sharing this experience with the approximately 75 other outstanding students from high schools across Wisconsin.

Our Rotary Club is asking you to nominate young men and women who have already displayed leadership abilities or show great potential and who will profit most from this experience. We suggest they be selected first for leadership potential, second for good citizenship, third for desire to attend the Conference, and fourth for scholarship. These characteristics are listed in that order so that latent leaders are not overlooked because of grades.

The nominations should be made and the names given to _____ no later than _____. Our Rotary Committee will then conduct interviews and select the conferees. It is our hope that the selection for the Youth Leadership Conference might become a regular part of your award system, and an honor that students can work toward and achieve.

Thanks for your assistance in this project for the advancement of youth.

Sincerely,

RYLA Committee Chair

(Sample News Release to Announce Search for Candidates)

For Immediate Release

For More Information, Contact

Name _____

Phone _____

The Rotary Club of _____ is searching for candidates to attend its second annual District 6250 Rotary Youth Leadership Conference at YMCA Camp Manito-wish, Boulder Junction, May 15-17, 2009.

_____, local committee chairman, said that participants will be selected from students who have exhibited leadership abilities and are sophomores as of September 2007. The Rotary Club is now contacting high school principals, guidance counselors, youth organizations and other sources for nominations of conference participants.

Aimed at developing leadership, the conference will focus on collaborative decision-making, critical thinking, communicating effectively, ethics, public service, contemporary problems and career development.

The participants will live, work, study and play together under the guidance of professional counselors and educators. In addition, Rotary facilitators and discussion leaders will present a wide variety of vocational and community interests.

Anyone interested in obtaining further information should contact:

_____ at _____ (Address or phone number) or any other member of the Rotary Club.