District 6250 RYLA 2019

May 17-19, 2019

Camp Upham Woods
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Dear Rotarian,

Enclosed in the following pages is the material you will need to help make your RYLA program a success. Along with the Student Package, everything you need to recruit and register students is provided.

We ask that you please review the Tool Kit and Student Package to start your journey. All forms are **due back to Morgan Data by Friday April 12, 2019** along with payment for each student attending. The cost per student is $200 if registered before April 1st. **The registration fee increases to $225 after April 1st.** Also, registration is based on a first apply first apply first filled basis due to demand.

Rotary District 6250
ATTN: RYLA Registration
2820 Walton Commons, Suite 103
Madison, WI 53718

PLEASE NOTE. It is important that all fees be paid up front by the deadline! Please make checks payable to Rotary District 6250.

If you have any questions please fell free to contact:

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RYLA Chair
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Wisconsin Association of School Councils
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FACT SHEET

What is the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Conference?
The RYLA Conference is a 3-day leadership training opportunity that focuses on the personal and professional development of high school students. Leadership skills, concepts, and metaphors are explored through participatory outdoor-based activities that include trust building exercise, problem solving initiatives, and low and high challenge course experiences.

Who exactly is it for?
The RYLA Conference is for sophomores in high school.

When and where does it take place?
The RYLA Conference takes place at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells, WI. *The 2019 RYLA Conference will take place Friday, May 17 through Sunday May 29.*

Why does it exist?
Strong leaders are made, not born. Leadership principles are learned not inherited. RYLA Conference participants, the "leaders of tomorrow," deserve the opportunity to be exposed to many facets of leadership. The RYLA Conference provides an enjoyable and valuable experience for those who chose to meet the challenge.

The purpose of the RYLA Conference is:

1. To encourage, assist and train selected youth leaders and potential youth leaders in responsible and effective leadership;
2. To publicly recognize the high qualities of the many young people who are rendering service to their communities as youth leaders; and
3. To demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth.

At the RYLA Conference, participants will:

- Learn the fundamentals of collaborative leadership;
- Understand the importance of communication skills in effective leadership;

- Build self-confidence and self-esteem;
- Practice problem solving and conflict management;
- Examine the ethics of positive leadership; and
- Transfer leadership skills and action plan for the future.

What is Rotary?
Rotary is a worldwide service organization whose membership consists of business and professional men and women dedicated to the concept of "Service Above Self." Rotarians are committed to developing tomorrow's leaders. There are over one million members of Rotary International in over 185 countries around the world. The (NAME OF ROTARY CLUB) has served the community for (NUMBER OF YEARS) years and currently has (NUMBER OF MEMBERS) members.

Rotarians chose to sponsor the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Conference so that students who have demonstrated leadership capabilities can have the unique opportunity to interact with individuals who are already leaders in their professions. Through the RYLA Conference, Rotary seeks to establish a fellowship of youth leaders and prepare them to be the future leaders of our communities.

For more information about the RYLA Conference and how to participate, contact (NAME OF ROTARY CLUB CONTACT) at (PHONE NUMBER AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS)

Sample RYLA Conference Candidate Interview Questions

1. Why would you like to attend the RYLA Conference?
2. What do you think is the purpose of sending young people to the conference?
3. How do you feel you can contribute to the conference?
4. What do you hope to gain from the conference?
5. What organizations (school, community, etc.) do you belong to? Have you taken on any leadership positions in these organizations?
6. What are your hobbies? What recreational and cultural activities do you enjoy? How do you spend your free time?
7. Have you done any public speaking? If so, when and to whom?
8. What do you consider to be your strengths and weaknesses?
9. What are you plans and ambitions?
10. What do you consider to be the major issues facing young people today?
11. What is your most important personal accomplishment?
12. Does criticism bother you?
13. Do you usually finish what you start?
14. What group or organization have you most enjoyed being a part of?
15. How do you set up and keep a good working relationship in a team?
16. Describe a situation you have experienced in high school in which leadership was less than perfect. What were the problems and how would you have corrected them?
17. What do you think the RYLA Conference will be like for you?

Sample Letter to Local School Officials

(Date)

Dear (NAME OF EDUCATOR):

As you know, the (NAME OF ROTARY CLUB) is interested in community leadership, not only for today but for tomorrow as well. The students of (NAME OF SCHOOL) will in a very few years assume some of our community's leadership roles. We know you are preparing them for the task. Rotary would like to join you in that effort.

From May 17 – May 19, 2019, Rotary District 6250 will conduct the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. The RYLA Conference is a three-day leadership training opportunity that focuses on the personal and professional development of high school students. Leadership skills, concepts, and metaphors are explored through participatory outdoor-based activities that include trust building exercise, problem solving initiatives, and low and high challenge course experiences. Essentially, the conference offers participants opportunities to live, work, and play collaboratively as they are challenged to accept the responsibility of leadership. The conference is an enjoyable and valuable experience for those who chose to meet that challenge. Perhaps the greatest benefit of making that choice is sharing the experience with more than 100 other young men and women from communities in the district.

As we work toward developing our young people as leaders in our community, our Rotary club hopes to use the RYLA Conference as a springboard to collaborate with our local high school(s) in an effort to expose and train young adults in the leadership qualities required to contribute to (NAME OF YOUR COMMUNITY)'s future. As such, our club is asking you to collaborate with us to recruit students to apply to participate in the conference. Any young woman or young man from your sophomore or junior class is eligible to participate. Although we have some selection criteria in mind, please know that our club is committed to sponsoring participants who will benefit most from this experience. We recognize that the young person who will benefit most may already be an outstanding leader, or he or she may be someone who has exhibited leadership *potential* but may not have already been afforded many opportunities to lead. We also recognize that the best candidates may not have the best grades. Whatever criteria we use, we value your insights and look forward to working with you. Ultimately, we hope to sponsor (# of students) to participate in the conference.

Enclosed you will find a fact sheet about the conference. Please read it over and consider how you may assist us. Note that our timeline for recruiting and selecting participants is relatively short, so we hope to begin working with you as soon as possible.

I will contact you within a few days to confirm your receipt of this letter. In the meantime, if I may provide any further information or answer any questions, please contact me at (PHONE NUMBER AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS OF CLUB CONTACT PERSON). On behalf of the (NAME OF ROTARY CLUB), thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

(Name of club contact person)
(Name of Rotary Club)

Sample Selection Criteria for RYLA Conference Participants

The following considerations are offered as possible criteria to be used in your selection process:

Leadership Potential: Does the student demonstrate those qualities which might make him or her an effective leader?

Leadership Experience: Has the student had opportunities to practice leadership skills in real-life situations? (Look for officers of school organizations, class officers, athletic team captains, and extracurricular leadership experience in Scouts, church groups, etc.)

Academic Ability. What is the candidate's academic record?

Extracurricular Activities: Has the candidate been involved in extracurricular activities? Emphasize quality of involvement rather than quantity. Has he or she had a job after school, evenings, or weekends?

Questioning Thought: Does the student think about things that he or she reads or hears, or does he or she accept things blindly?

Articulation: Is the candidate capable of expressing thoughts and feelings accurately, clearly, and effectively?

Ability to Relate with Peers: How easily does the candidate get along with others?

Openness to this Experience: Will the candidate be open and adaptive enough to embrace the philosophy of the Conference?

Vision for Application of the Experience: Does the candidate have a vision for how he/she could apply what he/she learns at the conference in his/her life at home, school, in the community, etc.?