



ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

## District 6250 RYLA 2021

**VIRTUAL**

**May 16-17, 2021**

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. Here's the details to get you going:

### **Registration, cost and deadline:**

- Registration is due by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Rotary Clubs will be invoiced for their students after registration closes
  - o \*Students/families can not pay for themselves. RYLA delegates/students are to be sponsored by a Rotary Club. The registration link should not be shared publicly.
- The cost per student is \$50

### **Club Registration Form:**

- Clubs will fill out a "Club Registration Form". This form will inform Rotary District 6250 how many students your club will be sponsoring, including the student(s) name(s) and the high school they're from.

#### **Club Registration Form:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RYLA-2021-Club-Registration>

- **PLEASE NOTE: It is important that all fees be paid up front by the deadline! Please make checks payable to Rotary District 6250.**
- Payment from clubs should be submitted to:  
Rotary District 6250  
ATTN: RYLA Registration  
2820 Walton Commons, Suite 103  
Madison, WI 53718

### **Student Registration Form:**

- Students along with their parent/guardian will fill out a "Student Registration Form". This is where we will get the necessary info and acknowledgement from the student and their parent/guardian.

#### **Student Registration Form:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RYLA-2021-Student-Registration>

- \*The registration link should not be shared publicly as students who are sponsored by Rotary clubs should be the only ones registering.
- Each student and their guardian will submit a separate form

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Michelle McGrath

RYLA Chair

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# What is RYLA?

## **What is Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)?**

RYLA is a 3-day leadership training opportunity (*in 2021 it will be a shorter, virtual event*) 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 2021 RYLA Program will be a virtual event held via Zoom. This year's event will be on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (2-3 hours each day). The RYLA Conference normally takes place at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

## **Why does it exist?**

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

## ***The purpose of the RYLA 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 RYLA, 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.



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### **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)



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## Sample RYLA Conference Candidate Interview Questions

1. Why would you like to attend RYLA?
2. What do you think is the purpose of sending young people to this program?
3. How do you feel you can contribute to this program?
4. What do you hope to gain from this program?
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 your 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 RYLA will be like for you?



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## 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.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Rotary District 6250 will conduct the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program virtually. RYLA is typically at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin but with an abundance of caution, we've decided to hold it virtually like so many other events this year. We'll still be putting on a high-energy and engaging program that focuses on the personal and professional development of high school students. Leadership skills, concepts, and metaphors are explored through participatory activities that include trust building exercise and problem solving initiatives. Essentially, RYLA offers participants opportunities to live, work, and play collaboratively as they are challenged to accept the responsibility of leadership. RYLA 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 RYLA 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)



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## 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.?