



2024 RYLA CLUB PACKET

In this packet you will find a multitude of information regarding RYLA!

PLEASE NOTE: We have changed the process for registering RYLA candidates for the RYLA camp. Please read and follow these instructions & time table for deadlines carefully.

RYLA REGISTRATION IS ONLINE ONLY!

This should make the process easier and more efficient for you! Keep reading...

Helpful Tip!

Use the Table of Contents to navigate through the RYLA Club Packet!

The fee per registration is \$300. Payments are due by March 15, 2024. **No refunds.**
Make checks out to RYLA and mail to Kyle Cross, 602 Riley Rd, Delphi, IN 46923.

By participating in RYLA, you and your Rotary club agree to abide by and accept responsibility for following the Youth Services Policy ("Article 11") of the District 6540 By-laws to ensure the safety of the youth you are sending to participate in RYLA. Article 11 includes guidelines for youth protection and transportation and may require specific types of background checks, as necessary. A copy of Article 11 can be found on pages 10-11 in this document. A copy of Article 11 and background check information through InCheck (background check company) can also be found on the district's website. See the "files" section on the left-hand side of the RYLA page, <http://ryla.rotary6540.org>. You acknowledge that it is the responsibility of your Rotary club to follow Article 11 and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Rotary District 6540 and the District 6540 RYLA Committee. You also understand that the District 6540 RYLA Committee cannot monitor or ensure that clubs follow this policy.

Important notice about web pages (there is NO www. in front of these addresses)

RYLA webpage: ryla.rotary6540.org

Chair Report: rylachairreport.rotary6540.org

Application: rylaapplication.rotary6540.org

Health Form & Release: rylahealthformandrelease.rotary6540.org

Important Items!

- **Rotarian leadership and commitment:**

District 6540 commits, a year in advance, to a \$20,000-\$30,000 investment into our youth for a leadership camp known as RYLA. This only happens because of your Rotary club's continued support of this program. Thank you! We are counting on you! This is the 35th year of RYLA in our district. It has been a big investment but believe me, ***the return on investment has been enormous!*** An estimated 3,000+ teens have attended RYLA over the years. Each of these RYLA delegates was sent by a Rotarian, like you. A Rotarian who cared enough to get involved so that they could have a lasting impact on the next generation. Why? It is what leaders do. It is the heart of a Rotarian. Will your club participate this year and continue this legacy?

- **Quotes from RYLA Alumni:**

If you don't do anything else, read the quotes on page 19. Seriously, I dare you! 😊

- **Due dates:**

See [RYLA Time Table](#), page 9. Please commit to accomplishing each item before the due date.

- **Online forms:**

All forms are to be submitted online to us at the district. Links are updated every year. Only use the links in this year's RYLA Club Packet.

- **No refunds:**

No refunds! This has been the policy since RYLA's inception. Your club is expected, at minimum, to follow through with its commitment per your club's RYLA Chair Report. You may send equal to or more than what you submit on your RYLA Chair Report, but not less. To avoid losing out on fees, select alternates in case your delegates cannot attend!

- **Useful items in this packet:**

- Press Releases and Letters and Information for School Principals and Guidance Counselors are meant to make your job easier and gets your Rotary club some good publicity! These can be edited if you wish.
- Some clubs use a paper application for their interview process. Therefore, the old (pre-online) paper application (page 20) is for your club only IF you want to use it. Many clubs do not use a paper application for interviews or their selection process. Increasingly, many clubs use their own online application that matches the district's, this makes for an easy copy and paste district submission. In the end, online applications for each of your RYLA delegates must be submitted to the district through the link provided in this RYLA Club Packet at rylaapplication.rotary6540.org. It is up to your RYLA Committee to decide if either you or your delegate will submit the online application!

- **Interview & Selection Process:**

Every club selects RYLA delegates differently. Your club gets to choose how this is done! Your club can select kids to attend RYLA from many sources. Here are a few ideas:

- Ad in local media
- Essay contest
- Neighbor
- Place of worship or youth group
- Boys & girls Club or YMCA
- Local schools:
- Interact Club
- Guidance counselor
- Principal
- Teacher
- Coach
- Band/Choir Directors

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Quick Steps!

Here are some quick steps to guide you through this process!

1. Send this information to your club's RYLA Committee RIGHT NOW.

Helpful Tip!

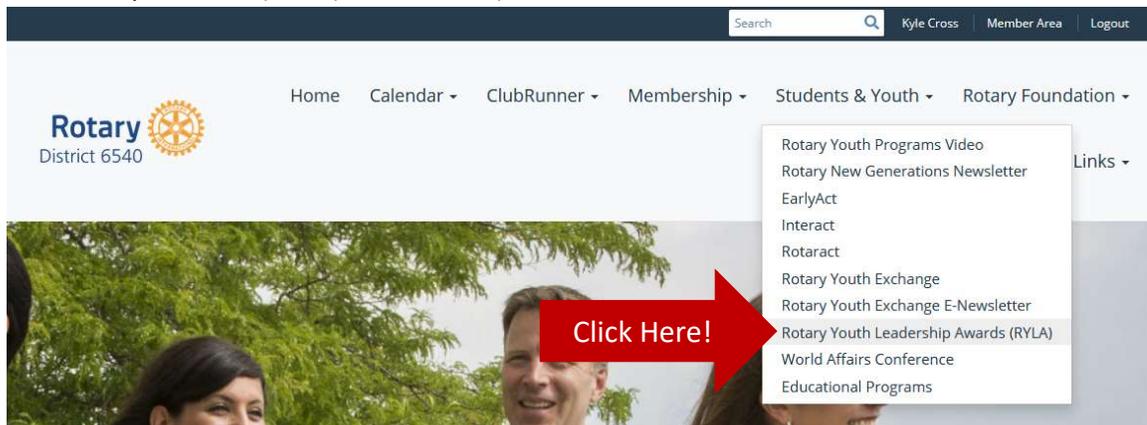
Check your Rotary Club's budget and decide how many students you plan to send to RYLA this year.

- a. **Club Presidents** Read the **Club President Letter** on page 7!
- b. **RYLA Committees** Read the **RYLA Committee Letter** on page 8!

2. Read through this entire packet and become familiar with it as things have changed this year!

3. Pay attention to the strict deadlines on the RYLA Time Table, page 9.

4. Check out the district's website where all the pertinent RYLA links and files can be found, ryla.rotary6540.org. (You can also get to the RYLA page from the district website, www.rotary6540.org by clicking on Students & Youth, then click Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), see below.)



5. Complete and return the RYLA Chair Report. The deadline for submitting your RYLA Chair Report is February 2nd! The RYLA Chair Report is now online at rylachairreport.rotary6540.org! Or you can go to the RYLA page on the district website at ryla.rotary6540.org. Then, click on RYLA Chair Report in the "links" section on the left-hand side of the page. Complete every question and hit submit at the bottom of the page.

6. **Submit applications and health forms with waivers online at ryla.rotary6540.org!** This is another big change with online registration this year.



RYLA - (Camp

---RYLA

Subpages

[RYLA - \(Camp Details\)](#)

Links

- [RYLA Chair Report](#)
- [RYLA Application](#)
- [RYLA Health Form & Release](#)

2008 RYLA Video

Files

- [Youth Services Policy District 6540](#)
- [InCheck Contact/Requestor Form](#)
- [InCheck Contact Information Authorized Requestor Form](#)
- [Paper Application](#)
- [RYLA What to Bring List](#)
- [RYLA Student Comments](#)

This is a 2-step process, please have your students complete the following:

- i. **The online application must be completed either by a Rotarian OR the FINAL RYLA delegates that your club selects to attend RYLA.** You can find this form at rylaapplication.rotary6540.org. The application still asks who the sponsoring club is, name of local RYLA Chair, and the Chair's contact info. **Plan accordingly for who will fill this out. A 'copy of responses' will be sent to the email address on the top line of the form. Most Chairs will want their address entered here to know when the application is submitted. Plan accordingly!**

Helpful Tip!

If your club has candidates submit a paper version of the application for the interview process (see page 16) we suggest you make a copy of this hand-written application so it can quickly and identically be submitted online.

- ii. **Last, the Health Form & Release must be completed by the student & their parent/guardian.** There is a link at the bottom of the application, above the "submit" button, for the Health Form and Release. It will take the person filling out the form to another website where they need to complete the Health Form and Release. The Health Form and Release can also be found at rylahealthformandrelease.rotary6540.org.

All forms need to be completed and payment received before students will be considered enrolled to RYLA. All information is needed to know how to contact the students, guardians, emergency contacts, administer medicine, deal with allergies, etc.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award

Kyle Cross, 602 Riley Road, Delphi, IN 46923, 765-202-0356

District Co-Chair

Amber Beatty, 2722 Sunset Lane Logansport, IN 46947, 765-418-6817

District Co-Chair

January 22, 2024

Dear Rotary Club President,

The time has come to begin working on the **35th annual Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp** which will be held on **April 19th – April 21st, 2024**, at Camp Tecumseh, Brookston, IN.

We will accept applications for 56 guys and 74 girls on a first come, first served basis. Your students MUST attend the ENTIRE camp.

Please:

1. Appoint your RYLA Committee
2. Give them the enclosed packet, and
3. Decide how many students your club will sponsor.

Then, just follow the Time Table. *It's that simple.*

Then have your RYLA Committee Chair return the RYLA Chair Report online by **February 2nd**. Directions are on the second page of this packet!

By following the RYLA Time Table, your RYLA Committee will be able to make the student selections and send the applications, health forms, release, and money to me **by March 15, 2024, which allows the District RYLA Committee about **45 days** to complete the organization of the camp and prepare your students for a **great adventure**.**

We believe this is an excellent camp and a great investment for the future of your youth. So, let's do it!

The fee is \$300 per RYLA registration. There are no refunds.

Sincerely,

Kyle Cross
District 6540 RYLA Co-Chair

Amber Beatty
District 6540 RYLA Co-Chair

Rotary Youth Leadership Award

Kyle Cross, 602 Riley Road, Delphi, IN 46923, 765-202-0356

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District Co-Chair

January 22, 2024

Dear RYLA Committee,

Once again, *it's time to spring into action* and make your student selections for the 35th RYLA camp for District 6540! We have planned a terrific weekend **April 19th – April 21st, 2024**, for your students!

I've enclosed a RYLA Chair Report, Time Table, Instructions, News Releases and Letters for guidance. Please talk with your club members for suggestions of students to sponsor and explain the camp activities to the students. **Please return the RYLA Chair Report online by 2/2/2024.**

Also, please be sure they understand that **the camp includes physical**, as well as **mental**, challenges and lots of **outdoor activities** and **that the students must (and will want to) attend the ENTIRE camp**. If you have questions, please call me at 765-202-0356 or e-mail me at crosskj@hotmail.com.

BY MARCH 15, 2024, please select your students and submit their **applications, health forms, and releases online by March 15, 2024**, along with mailing a check for **\$300 per registration**. *There are no refunds.* We can only accept applications for **56 GUYS AND 74 GIRLS! IF YOU DON'T SEND YOUR APPLICATIONS IN ON TIME, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR OPPORTUNITY.**

Make sure the students commit themselves to attend the entire camp. Students are not allowed to miss part of the camp (due to logistical nightmares and missed opportunities).

We will accept applications for 56 guys & 74 girls.

We're counting on you to participate in order to make this camp the best it can be.

What a **great** way to **invest in the future!**

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Kyle Cross
District 6540 RYLA Co-Chair

Amber Beatty
District 6540 RYLA Co-Chair

RYLA Time Table for Rotary Clubs

Complete by these dates:

By February 2

- _____ **Appoint** RYLA Committee
- _____ **Determine** number of awardees your club will sponsor
- _____ **Submit** "RYLA Chair Report" online committing how many students you will sponsor.

By February 1

- _____ **Publicize** the RYLA program in newspapers
- _____ **Write or call** high school principals or guidance counselors
- _____ **Deliver** brochures and applications to high school principal/guidance counselors.
(Brochures are for principals/guidance counselors and students)

By February 28

- _____ **Select** students through interview process

By March 15

- _____ **Submit ALL** Applications, Health Forms, and Waivers online
If you don't supply applications, you may lose your opportunity.
- _____ **Mail \$300 per registration (Make out checks to RYLA, C/O Kyle Cross, 602 Riley Road, Delphi, IN 46923).**
No refunds!

By April 1

- _____ **Invite** students to a Rotary Club meeting. Explain Rotary to them.
- _____ **Arrange** for transportation of students to Camp Tecumseh
(You may want to pool rides with surrounding clubs)
District RYLA Committee will send letter and instructions to students.
You must follow District By-laws, Article 11!

By April 15

- _____ **Call** students and their families to confirm transportation arrangements

On April 19

- _____ **Transport** students to Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Camp
Arrive between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.
Drivers and guest are welcome to attend the Monticello Rotary meeting at noon in Monticello

On April 21

- _____ **At 1:00, pick up** students at Camp Tecumseh Kampen Lodge and transport home

By April 22

- _____ **Invite** students to your club to give a short talk about RYLA
- _____ **Present** certificates to students at the Rotary meeting

By May 15

- _____ **Report** suggestions and comments to RYLA committee

If all the timelines in the RYLA Club Packet are met by your Rotary Club's RYLA Committee, The District RYLA Committee will then mail a letter, What to Bring to Camp List (packing list of clothing and other articles) to each student, with information and rules. It is each Rotary Club's RYLA Committee's responsibility to make sure that they get this information. Therefore, the rules and packing list are already attached to this RYLA Club Packet and your student selections should already have them before receiving them from the District RYLA Committee.

Please follow this time table as closely as possible. We are working with up to 58

Rotary clubs 130 students, 15 Camp Tecumseh staff members, 7 speakers, and 1 Rotary District Governor in an effort to accomplish this great camp for your youth!

RYLA Chair Report

After reading through this packet and paying close attention to the due dates in the Time Table, **complete and return the RYLA Chair Report. The deadline for submitting your RYLA Chair Report is February 2nd!**

The Purpose

RYLA Chair Report lets us know who your Rotary club’s RYLA Chair or contact person is and their contact info.

It also tells us how many students your Rotary Club will be sending to the RYLA camp this year. The amount your club owes for RYLA is based on this RYLA Chair Report. Think of the Chair Report as the “RYLA RSVP” for your Rotary club. We have a limited number of campers who can attend this amazing camp and it is on a first come, first serve basis. Be sure and turn this form in ASAP. If it is not submitted on time, the camp could fill up and your Rotary club could miss their chance to change the lives of future leaders in their community!

You also must click “Agree” to following the District 6540 Youth Services Policy (Article 11) to submit this form. A copy of Article 11 is in this RYLA Club Packet.

How to submit the Chair Report

The RYLA Chair Report can be filled out online! This is the direct link to the page.
rylachairreport.rotary6540.org.

You can also find the online RYLA Chair Report by going to our RYLA page of the district website, ryla.rotary6540.org. Click on Chair Report. Then complete every question and hit submit at the bottom of the page.



Rotary District 6540 Youth Services Policy from District By-laws

ARTICLE 11 – YOUTH POLICY

11.1. Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

Rotary strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses and partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

Given the extent of Rotary activities, any adult (Rotarian and non-Rotarian) who is involved in any Rotary sponsored program (Rotary Youth Programs) must be willing to undergo a criminal background and reference check, without reservation or parameter. This includes any activity associated with any Rotary youth program, collectively or separately, including but not limited to Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Interact, EarlyAct, Speech Contest, Rotary Students, Rotary Scholars, or any Rotary endorsed mentoring program.

Further, anyone involved in such youth activity should expect and Clubs are authorized to do such a background check at least annually. If common knowledge is such that a person has been charged by a law enforcement agency of violating a trusted youth relationship, they shall be removed from any and all activity concerning Rotary youth programs pending the outcome of any related charges.

It is highly suggested that a person within each Rotary Club serve as a "Youth Liaison" and maintain records on ALL individuals engaged in youth connected activities for a period of at least 10 years. This includes persons, including but not limited to committee members, host families, club counselors, drivers, etc. Each person must complete and sign a Youth Volunteer Affidavit and agree to undergo a criminal background and reference check.

It is also suggested that one-on-one contact with an adult/young person be avoided to limit the opportunity for or the accusation of inappropriate behavior. The best circumstance would ensure that all activities and travel involve at least two unrelated adults.

11.2 Compliance with Youth Protection Laws and Reporting

Every Rotarian in every club must be diligent and steadfast in protecting all youth engaged in club and/or district activities. Compliance with all state and federal Youth Protection Laws is required.

Any Rotary Club involved with a child/young person who has made an allegation against a Rotarian or other adult while traveling, visiting or attending a Rotary event must report it to the District Governor immediately upon discovery. In addition, Rotary International provides the following guidelines for addressing such an issue:

- A. An independent and thorough investigation must be made into any claims of sexual abuse or harassment.
- B. Any adult involved in a Rotary youth program against whom an allegation of sexual abuse or harassment is made must be removed from all contact with youth until the matter is resolved.
- C. Any allegation of abuse must be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency, in accordance with RI's zero-tolerance policy.
- D. A club must terminate the membership of and prohibit the involvement of any Rotarian or non-Rotarian who admits to, is convicted of or is otherwise found to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment of a

Rotary youth student. A club may not grant membership to a person who is known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment.

- E. If an investigation into a claim of sexual abuse or harassment is inconclusive, then additional safeguards must be put in place to assure the protection of any youth with whom the individual may have future contact. Such measures should include, at a minimum, the adult being prohibited both by rule and practice, of being alone with any young person interacting on Rotary business.

Regardless of proven criminal or civil guilt on the second accusation, the adult will not be allowed to interact or engage with any youth within a Rotary context. A person who is accused but the charges are absolved may apply to be reinstated to participate in youth programs.

Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his or her former position or be allowed to have contact with the youth. (November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72)

11.3 Travel by Youth

It is encouraged and expected that Rotary clubs be involved with various activities involving young people both locally and at the district, state, zone, and international levels. Travel to and from these events must be governed by all youth protection policies and written procedures. Such policies will govern ALL activities including those for the Youth Exchange program.

Rotary Clubs are encouraged to limit travel extended by Rotarians to students to a minimum. If possible, rely on teachers, parents, grandparents, etc. to transport students. Rotarians should be used as a last resort.

If students are transported by Rotarians, the Club is required to have an established process for determining the worthiness of volunteers, including but not limited to, a volunteer application; proof of auto insurance; a criminal and driving record background check, and other reasonable means deemed appropriate by the Club to ensure youth are protected from harm while in their care. If the Rotarian is employed by a public school system, it is assumed that the school's youth program is sufficient and no further action is required.

- A. Written permission slips must be signed by the parents or guardians of all youth participants for all travel extended by a Rotarian or Rotary program. Such permission slip should relay that the Rotarian providing transport is not a professional driver and Rotary retains no liability. Additional information regarding emergency medical care should also be requested. *See attached sample. Copies of the permission slips should be retained by the adult in charge of the student as well as the Club Secretary, per previously stated guidelines in this policy.
- B. Rotarians transporting students must be free of significant past driving infractions or impaired driving charges. Anyone known to have had a DUI (Driving Under the Influence {of drugs or alcohol}), OWI (Operating while intoxicated), reckless driving, or other such charge within the past 5 years shall be PROHIBITED from transporting students or young people. Review of Rotarian driver records should be kept up to date via newsfeeds, common knowledge, and/or formal background checks at least annually.
- C. All parents or legal guardians are to be given complete details regarding the program, location, travel itineraries, sleeping accommodations and contact information of the responsible adults associated with the program BEFORE departure.
- D. If travel is more than 150 miles away from the home club, each young person must obtain travel insurance to include medical coverage, emergency medical evacuation, repatriation of remains, and legal liability, as applicable, in amounts satisfactory to the club or district organizing the activity or event, with coverage from the time of the minor's departure from his/her residence until their return home.

RYLA: The Award

An intensive youth leadership training experience.

Each delegate should visit your club meeting to meet your Rotarians and gain a better sense of Rotary in your community prior to the conference.

As soon as possible after the conference, the award certificates should be presented during your Rotary meeting.

The Aim

To recognize, encourage, and educate youth leaders.

The Purpose

To demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth.

To encourage, assist, and train leaders in responsible and effective youth leadership.

To encourage continued and stronger leadership of youth-by-youth

To publicly recognize the high qualities of youth who are rendering service to their communities as young leaders.

The Plan

We request that each club select high school students (usually sophomores and juniors) to attend the camp. To do this, the students must complete an application. Your RYLA committee must select delegates and alternates and your club must pay the cost of the camp for each student.

Interview Selection and Closing Date

Please send the delegate applications and payment **by March 15, 2024**. No refunds.

Interview Rating Chart (Sample)

Applicant's Name: _____

Category:	Excellent	Average	Fair	Poor
Leadership:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Industry:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Citizenship:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Attitude:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Appearance:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Communication:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Health:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Intelligence:	_____	_____	_____	_____

Remarks: _____

The local Rotary Club RYLA Committee (3 to 5 Rotarians under the leadership of an enthusiastic chair) should select the students to receive the award. Applications must be submitted by the student and approved by the student's parent or guardian. Health forms and releases need to be electronically signed by the student's parent or guardian. Each student should be interviewed by the committee before being approved. **Make sure the students commit themselves to attend the entire camp. We cannot have students missing part of the camp (due to logistical nightmares and missed opportunities). Your money will not be returned for no-shows.**

It is important that the selection of the students be carried out very carefully. The student shall be of the highest standard obtainable within the club's area. The basis will include reference to character, general education, leadership qualities, record of service to their school and community, and have the potential for wise leadership of their peers in the future. Students, for example, may be selected from school, church, YMCA, YWCA, 4-H, Boy and Girl Scouts, and other worthy youth organizations. Sons and daughters of Rotarians are eligible. The selection will reflect upon the local Rotary Club as well as the district.

Select students **first** for their **leadership potential**, **second** for **good citizenship**, **third** for **desire to attend the conference**, and **fourth** for **scholarship**. These characteristics are listed in order so that talented leaders are not overlooked because of grades. Talented leaders are good, conscientious students who are creative and resourceful. Academic standing is important, but not necessarily the #1 characteristic of effective and charismatic leaders.

Please submit the applications of selected students and \$300 per student by March 15th.

Press Release (Sample)

For Immediate Release

The Rotary Club of _____ is searching for candidates to attend its 35th annual District 6540 Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp at Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Camp, Brookston, Indiana. The camp will take place from April 19th – April 21st 2024.

_____, local committee chair, said that participants will be selected from students, in their sophomore or junior years in high school, who have exhibited leadership abilities in school, church, extracurricular, or community activities.

The Rotary Club is now contacting churches, high school principals, guidance counselors, youth organizations, and other sources for nominations.

Aimed at developing the leadership potential of young people, the camp will feature many challenging activities including workshops, speakers, discussions, sports, music, and fun. Topics will focus on decision-making, critical thinking, communicating effectively, public service, contemporary problems, and career development.

The participants will live, work, study, and play together in a democratic setting under the guidance of professional counselors and educators.

Anyone interested in obtaining further information should contact _____ at _____ or any other member of the Rotary Club.

Press Release to Announce the Selection of Delegates (Sample)

For Immediate Release

(Include a picture)

The Rotary Club of _____ announced the selection of _____ and _____ as delegates to the 35th annual Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp to be held this spring.

_____, local Committee Chair, stated that the _____ Rotary Club will be among the 58 Rotary Clubs of District 6540 that will be sponsoring high school students who will develop leadership potential together at Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Camp, Brookston, Indiana, from April 19th – April 21st 2024.

The camp will feature outstanding speakers and workshops focusing on decision-making, critical thinking, communicating effectively, ethics, career development, public service, contemporary problems, and other issues challenging leaders of today and tomorrow.

Letter to School Principals, Guidance Counselors, Interact Sponsors, and Others (Sample)

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 leadership roles in your community and beyond. **We know you are training them for the task. Rotary would like to help.**

For this reason, the 58 Rotary Clubs in District 6540 will conduct the 35th annual Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp at Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Camp, Brookston, Indiana from April 19th – April 21st 2024. **It will be staffed by carefully selected professional counselors.** Our objective is to offer **outstanding high school sophomores and juniors** an opportunity to live, work, and play together in an atmosphere of friendly competition which will offer a challenge to accept the responsibilities of leadership. Much of each student's time will be structured with programs such as group discussions, guest speakers, career guidance, and group sports. Perhaps the greatest benefit will come from sharing this experience with 130 outstanding young men and women from high schools in northern Indiana.

Our Rotary Club is asking you to nominate students who have already displayed leadership abilities 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 camp, and **fourth** for scholarship.

Please give the attached memo to students that you think will be good candidates.

Nominations should be made and the names given to _____ no later than _____. Our Rotary Committee will then interview the students and select the delegates and alternates.

We hope the selection for the camp will become a regular part of your award system.

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

Sincerely,

_____, Rotary Club RYLA Chair

More information can be found at <http://ryla.rotary6540.org>.

This is Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

(Information for Principals, Guidance Counselors, and Interact Sponsors)

History

RYLA began in District 960, Queensland, Australia.

By 1966, the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program had spread to two more districts. Then it "took off" and within another three years, it was being operated in every district in Australia and New Zealand.

In 1971, Rotarians from Australia and New Zealand cheered enthusiastically when the Rotary International president announced, at the International Convention in Sydney, that RYLA had been adopted by the board of Rotary International as an official youth program.

RYLA seminars are being conducted now in many countries. Our Rotary District 6540 (northern 1/3 of Indiana) has conducted RYLA for over 30 years!

Objectives

To demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth.

To encourage, assist, and train leaders in responsible and effective youth leadership.

To encourage continued and stronger leadership of youth by youth

To publicly recognize the high qualities of youth who are rendering service to their communities as young leaders.

The Award

RYLA is not a normal type of award.

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award entitles the recipient to take part in the annual **RYLA camp** as the **guest** of their local Rotary Club.

Apart from attending the RYLA camp, the awardees receive a **certificate** to mark the occasion and will be **invited to their sponsoring Rotary Club** before and after the camp. The camp is a Friday through Sunday live-in program conducted by **highly trained, experienced leaders representing a wide range of vocations.**

What is the Rotary Youth Leadership Award?

(Information for students)

To become a RYLA delegate you must show leadership potential in your school, church, extracurricular activities, or your community. You must be recommended by your principal, guidance counselor, or a Rotarian for an interview by your local Rotary Club RYLA Committee who will select the delegates and alternates.

If you are selected, you will attend your local Rotary Club to become acquainted with the local Rotarians and get a better understanding about Rotary.

Your transportation to and from the camp, and all expenses, will be provided by your local Rotary Club. The camp will take place April 19th – April 21st 2024.

You must (and will want to) attend the ENTIRE camp. You will experience three exciting days making new friends, learning, competing, and having fun while working to increase your leadership abilities.

You will hear from outstanding humorists and speakers.

You will participate in networking, leadership development exercises, group dynamics and team building initiatives, and problem solving. This series of mentally and physically challenging situations build group cohesiveness and character, and will give you the opportunity to use your humor, intellect, and problem solving skills.

You will attend and participate in a campfire and be in group skits.

You will not, however, get much sleep!

We are working with up to 58 Rotary clubs, 130 students, 15 Camp Tecumseh staff members, 7 speakers, and 1 Rotary District Governor in an effort to accomplish this great camp for your youth! RYLA is staffed by carefully selected professional adult counselors. There are separate cabins for boys and girls.

Get an application from your principal, guidance counselor, or a Rotarian.

You, too, can experience the adventure!

Really, this is serious fun!

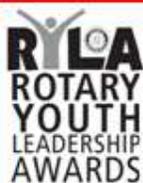
What will you get out of the RYLA experience?

Do not take it from us.

RYLA Alumni will tell you in their own words!

- “This camp has changed my life.”
- “This camp has made me realize one person can make a difference.”
- “I have never been away from home.”
- “I have never seen stars before.”
- “I feel like I fit in.”
- “I want to get involved in my community.”
- “I want to start an Interact Club.”
- “I have made friendships to last a lifetime.”
- “I am so thankful for this opportunity.”
- “I love the different leadership roles I have learned.”
- “I will benefit by taking these skills with me forever.”
- “It was amazing. Best program I’ve ever done!”
- “Opened my mind to be a stronger communicator and a more cooperative leader.”
- “I will carry these skills with me throughout my entire life. I have made amazing friends. I will never forget anything about this camp.”
- “This absolutely changed many of my views on life. I want to HELP people!!! Thank you so much.”
- “This camp exceeded my expectations. I am honored to have had this experience and honored to know that I have been selected for a reason.”
- “I am so thankful for this opportunity. I am truly amazed with this weekend.”
- “I loved this camp!”
- “Thank you for this experience. Once in a life time is correct.”
- “This has been the most life changing positive experience I’ve ever encountered.”

Written Application (use for club interviews ONLY) MUST submit applications online at rylaapplication.rotary6540.org.



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Student Application District #6540

PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY

Please print neatly.

Sponsoring Club: _____

Name of Local RYLA Chair: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Phone #: (____) _____

Name of Applicant: _____

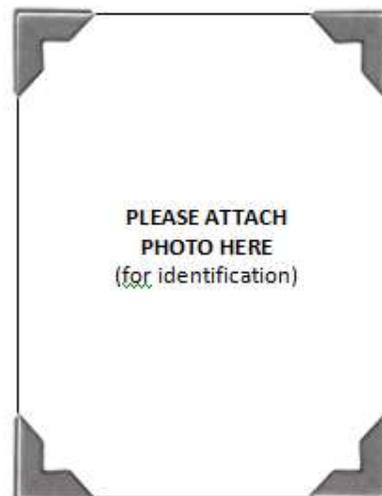
First MI Last

Address: _____

City _____ IN _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: (____) _____

Age: ____ Birth Date: ____/____/____ Male Female



Sweatshirt Size: S M L XL XXL

In Case of Emergency, Call:

Name (First & Last): _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Phone #: (____) _____

1. Why do you want to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)?
2. Please list current or recent leadership positions you have held.
3. How do you feel the RYLA experience will benefit you as an individual? As a leader?
4. Please list awards (school/civic) that you have received.
5. What extracurricular activities do you participate in?
6. What profession would you like to pursue following high school/college?

RYLA Committee Decision: Delegate 1st Alternate 2nd Alternate

Rotary Youth Leadership Award

The RYLA camp is a dynamic mixture of upbeat speakers and exciting, outdoor leadership exercises. Because of this dichotomy, RYLA participants should bring clothing for active outdoor wear (appropriate for the weather forecast, layers are GOOD!).

NOTE: It's springtime in Indiana! Participants should be prepared for weather extremes (rain, snow, cold).

Items to bring to camp:

- A Great Attitude!
- Rain Gear
- Sleeping Bag, Pillow, Sleep Clothes
- Toiletries
- Towel
- 2 Pairs of **Old** Jeans
- 3 Pairs of Warm Socks
- 2 Warm **Old** Long Sleeve Shirts or Sweatshirts (NOTE: 1 RYLA sweatshirt is provided!)
- 1 Warm Old Coat
- 1 Pair of Old Shoes or Boots
- 1 Pair of Old Gloves
- 1 Warm Hat
- 3 Tee Shirts
- Daily Change of Underwear
- 1 Flashlight
- 1 Refillable Water Bottle
- Sunscreen
- Alarm Clock
- Backpack
- Paper & Pencil
- Camera, Insect Repellent, and Spending Money for Snacks, etc. are optional.
- The expectation of having a great experience...

PLEASE NOTE: The use of cell phones, etc. is prohibited, except for pictures. If phones are used at camp (other than for pictures and to call parents/guardians in the evening), we will confiscate them.

For security purposes, you may bring a cell phone with you, but please don't use it at camp (except for pictures!). We want you to have a great time with no outside distractions.

Students must attend the entire camp.

Also, do NOT bring alcoholic beverages, knives, axes, saws, aerosol cans, skates, skateboards, firearms, glass bottles, etc. Use common sense.

Camp Tecumseh is located about 20 miles north of Lafayette, off State Road 18.

From Delphi: Follow State Road 18 west. Cross the Tippecanoe River and turn north (right) at the first road (Springboro Road). This road will take you up a winding hill. Go about 1/2 mile to the first road to the right, County Road 425 (Tecumseh Bend). Follow this road to the second camp entrance.

From Brookston: Follow State Road 18 east about 5 miles. Just before you come to the Tippecanoe River, turn north (left) onto Springboro Road. Then follow directions above.

In case of an emergency and a need arises to call camp, the following number can be used: 765-564-2898.

Please go to www.camptecumseh.org to find maps and other information.

We can't wait to see you!!

RYLA Information and Rules

1. **All RYLA participants must be transported to and from the conference.** Participants are NOT allowed to have cars in camp. Similarly, RYLA participants should have no outside visitors during the course of the conference. **Students must attend the ENTIRE camp.**
2. As representative of their local Rotary Clubs, all RYLA participants must see that no willful misuse or destruction of equipment or property of the conference site takes place.
3. Please plan to check in promptly between 9:30 and 10:30 so the opening session may begin at 11:00.
4. Emergency phone messages may be left at 765-564-2898. This is a business line and may not be used for social calls.
5. Each RYLA participant is assigned to a group sharing a modern lodge with restroom and shower facilities. A counselor will be supervising the group. Lights out at 12:00.
7. Medications will be turned into Camp Tecumseh staff at check-in and dispensed by camp staff as prescribed.
8. Alcoholic beverages and non-prescription drugs are not permitted on camp property. Smoking on camp grounds is prohibited. **Use of cell phones, etc. is prohibited (except for pictures). You may also use phones to call parents/guardians. If used for other purposes, they will be confiscated.**
7. Bring your own bedding, pillows, and towels. The camp provides bunks and mattresses. Most people bring a sleeping bag as bedding.
8. Pets are not permitted due to a conflict with domestic camp animals and wildlife.
9. Ground fires are permitted only in areas specifically designated by the camp director.
10. **RYLA is staffed by carefully selected professional adult counselors. There are separate cabins for boys and girls.**
11. **We are working with up to 55 Rotary clubs, 130 students, 15 Camp Tecumseh staff members, 7 speakers, and 1 Rotary District Governor in an effort to accomplish this great camp for your youth!**