



**Rotary International  
District 7090**

*Includes  
Niagara Region (Canada) and Western New York (USA)*

## **ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD PROGRAM**

[www.ryla7090.com](http://www.ryla7090.com)

**The State University of New York, College at Fredonia**

**June 14-20, 2015**

Registration                      3:30pm on Sunday, June 14, 2015

Program closes                      12 Noon on Saturday, June 20, 2015

## THE PURPOSE OF RYLA

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program for youth ages 19-25. RYLA programs have been taking place all around the world since 1960.

The RYLA program enables young adults to debate issues of professional responsibility and human relations, improve leadership and communication skills, learn about businesses and institutions, and meet Rotarians while having fun and making friends. RYLA enables young adults to get to know themselves better and to cultivate the respect and trust of others. Participants will be able to identify their own leadership skills and determine ways to make more effective use of their resources. RYLA provides RYLarians the opportunity to refine skills and explore pertinent topics with their peers and elders.

For Rotarians, RYLA offers the chance to help develop leaders, share valuable expertise and bridge the gap between generations.

## THE PROGRAM

### Overall Objectives

- To develop personal leadership and life management skills
- To use applied learning to build on concepts presented in order to make topics and discussions meaningful
- To create lasting bonds of friendship and fellowship among participants
- To support Rotary principles and encourage service beyond RYLA

### In the RYLA program, participants will:

- Gain exposure to issues and exchange ideas with talented people like themselves
- Learn how to coordinate youth activities and community service projects in their community
- Discuss creative approaches for resolving family, social and professional conflicts
- Meet Rotary decision-makers in their community and learn about other Rotary programs

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN RYLA?

The RYLA program is for young adults with proven leadership experience and potential leaders from diverse backgrounds. Whether they are a college/university student or young professional, RYLA provides a unique opportunity to learn, grow, have fun and make new friends. The RYLA experience prepares young people to be leaders in their community, profession, and other facets of everyday life.

### Commitment of RYLarians

RYLA participants must commit to attend the full program, staying on campus for the duration of the program, free of any other commitments for the entire period.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

### A Brief Summary

#### 1. Level One

##### Personal Development and Self Assessment

###### Objectives

- To become more aware of what makes us who we are by examining personal style, values, ethics, family traditions, etc.
- To work on areas identified by participants to strengthen leadership effectiveness
- To learn how to work with and adapt to others' styles and needs

#### 2. Level Two

##### Group Dynamics and Team Development

###### Objectives

- To build trust
- To learn how to work effectively in various group sizes and purposes
- To apply team concepts to the achievement of goals
- To understand group dynamics and issues and how to use them to increase leadership effectiveness

#### 3. Level Three

##### Organizational Systems and Career Development

###### Objectives

- To understand contemporary organizational structures, management philosophies and workplace challenges
- To develop understanding of and competency in the use of leadership and facilitation tools
- To consider career choices, fits and options

## FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

Comments from participants include:

- "I feel so privileged to have been selected for this program. Please don't ever stop this program. Ever!"
- "I have experienced an event that has changed my outlook on life entirely."
- "What I liked most were the lasting relationships that were formed and how we learned so much about each other in such a short time."
- "I left feeling energized, motivated and empowered with new friendships that will last a lifetime....because we shared something as powerful an experience as RYLA".
- "RYLA has re-inspired me to continue my life with optimism and passion for what I believe in."

## RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATING ROTARY CLUBS

- To select and sponsor RYLA candidate(s)
- To submit application and registration forms to the RYLA Registrar
- To pay \$750 US per candidate as registration fee (\$700 US) if paid before May 1, 2015)
- To ensure that the candidate receives all appropriate documents distributed by the Registrar
- To assist, if necessary, in securing transportation to and from SUNY Fredonia
- To arrange for candidate to attend a Club meeting to speak about the RYLA experience
- To obtain, to the extent possible, local media coverage for the candidate and program
- To have representative(s) from the club attend the Thursday night RYLA dinner during the RYLA program – Thursday, June 18, 2015

## SELECTION PROCESS

Clubs are encouraged to seek applications from young people who are known to members of their club (e.g. former exchange students and SLAPSHOT candidates, Rotaract club members) or through contacts in business or at local colleges and universities. Note that applicants may be current students or recent graduates. Program organizers like to see a balance of students and graduates. Because the RYLA experience is so exceptional, some businesses and not-for-profit organizations have voluntarily paid for their staff to attend.

Applicants first present their applications to individual clubs, who then make a selection and forward their selections to the registrar.

Be sure that applicants understand that this is an intensive leadership seminar and that they must commit to full participation for the entire duration of the program. Candidates must be free from work or other commitments during the entire week, 24 hours a day.

Clubs should review applications to ensure that they are complete, including complete contact information and emergency contact information.

Clubs should contact personal references.

Clubs should conduct a personal face-to-face interview with two or more Rotarians in attendance.

### Criteria for Selection

When selecting your participants, look for maturity, commitment to RYLA, motivation, communication and leadership skills. Assessment of “potential for future leadership” may be difficult, so be sure that all criteria have been tested. RYLA requires selflessness, self-awareness and previously exhibited leadership qualities. In order to achieve maximum benefit from the program candidates need the ability to communicate effectively and to work well with other young men and women.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Cost:** For 2015, the program cost is \$700 US (Early Bird) per participant. Rotary clubs across District 7090 pay the cost of registration on behalf of the candidates they select. The payment must be sent to the Registrar with the completed application. There are no refunds, so it is suggested that you may want to select an alternate participant.

**Deadlines:** Clubs may want to book a spot or spots for prospective candidates by forwarding registration fees to the registrar in advance of deadlines. Remember that there are no refunds, so consider having an alternate candidate.

Early registration – May 1, 2015 – discounted fee is \$700 US

Final registration deadline – May 29, 2015 – regular fee is \$750 US

Program runs – June 14 – 20, 2015

**Capacity of the Program:** 45 participants

### Registrar:

Cheryle Slattery  
St. Catharines Mazda  
161 Scott Street,  
St. Catharines, ON  
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## DISTRICT RYLA COMMITTEE

### Chair

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### Registrar

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