

Most Frequently Asked Questions about RYLA

How do I get students from the local high schools interested in attending RYLA?

Simply forward the information I send you to the local schools' guidance offices. A phone call, in advance, or an in-person drop off will help you pinpoint exactly which administrator/counselor should receive the packet. Schools familiar with RYLA are very interested in getting the information. Schools that have never sent students may be hesitant to respond— they simply do not know what a great program we have. If you are unable or unsure of what to do or who to contact, call me anytime at (630) 688-5165.

Who is Eligible?

Any high school age student in our district (current freshman through senior) is eligible. They do not have to possess any specific qualification or grade point average. Most students who attend are typically very involved in their school or community, although this is not the case with every individual. Anyone/Everyone who attends will get a lot out of the conference.

Can I send My Son/Daughter or our exchange student? – Yes!

How do students get to the camp?

We provide coach bus transportation. I will send all accepted students a packet of information about the conference including; speaker information, what to bring and wear, what to expect, conduct codes, medical release forms and a transportation memo listing bus pick up sites. There are two pieces of information in the packet the student must return to me so I know where they are going to be picked up and who we would need to contact in case of an emergency.

How much is the conference?

The cost this year is again only \$325 per student (before February 15, 2014 and \$350 after February 15.) However, when you consider all the leadership skills offered by this RYLA conference over the three days and nights, it is quite a bargain! I cannot say this enough times: the speakers are amazing, and the quote I hear most often is “*it was a life changing experience*”!

Where is the RYLA Conference?

We have exclusive use of Camp Edwards YMCA Camp and Conference in East Troy, Wisconsin (Near Alpine Valley). Camp Edwards is a great venue and allows us to use its low element ropes course as part of our conference activities. The camp also has very nice, separate housing for the boys and girls, great food, spacious lodges for meetings and group discussion, and outdoor team problem-solving stations. Plus, there are too many more features to list here.

Who is in charge? Who watches my kids?

We have a ratio of one adult group facilitator per eight participants. We also have a night security watchman who patrols the camp all night. His security role is supplemented by my oversight as well as the experienced eyes of the camp staff. The camp is very remote and secure.

If we have a conflict, can I pick up my son/daughter early or late? Then, can I bring them back?

Absolutely— this is their weekend you may come late or leave early. (They will not want to, trust me!). In the past, students have been picked up and returned to the camp without incident. However, we ask they not miss Friday morning or afternoon, if possible. We believe we have the world's greatest speaker on Fridays, and they will not want to miss him.

Can I come see my son/daughter and observe the camp? I would be honored to have any parent or Rotarian come and stay as long as they like. You will be glad you did.