

Background Information: (Use additional sheet of paper if necessary)

What leadership positions have you held? Give your group or organization name, positions held and dates.

Student Essay:

Attach to this application a short essay, no more than 500 words, on the importance of youth leadership in society.

Recommendation:

This certifies that we recommend the above student and understand that, if selected, this student will attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) conference held at Camp Edwards in East Troy, WI. The Conference will begin on Thursday evening and continue through Sunday afternoon on March 13-16, 2013 or April 17-20, 2014 of the weekend selected.

Principal or Authorized School Signature & Date

Counselor Signature and Date

Student Agreement:

If I am selected to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference, I agree to abide by all rules and regulations established by the sponsors, and I will strive to contribute my best effort toward the success of the program.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Please Note: The following is to be completed by the sponsoring Rotary Club

Return this completed application to:

RYLA District Chairman, Sean Nelson, 2361 Milton Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137

This application must be received no later than March 6, 2014 and MUST include a check,
payable to **Rotary District 6440**, in the amount of **\$325**

Sponsoring Rotary Club _____

Club Chairman _____

Address _____ City _____

November 5, 2013

Dear Rotary Club RYLA Chairman or Club President,

Enclosed are the materials for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference (RYLA) 2014. Also enclosed: the RYLA brochure, schedule for RYLA sessions, registration materials and a page called the "RYLA Process" so you know exactly how everything works should you be new to this position.

The RYLA Conference Dates are March 13-16 & April 17-20, 2014

What do you need to do now? You have a couple of choices:

1. Send the information to your local high schools if you intend to sponsor any students.
2. Get information (name, phone number, and addresses) from any of the schools in your town/city/village and get that information to me. I will then contact the schools and secure qualified students to represent your Rotary Club.

The RYLA program has been extremely popular in our district, and this year's program promises to be even more educational, motivating, and popular than in years past! I sincerely hope your club will participate in our district's RYLA program by sponsoring a few students from your local high schools. If your club does participate, I personally guarantee your club will feel that it is one of the most rewarding things your club will do this year! Our district has arguably presented the best RYLA program in the nation!

Participants will come away from the RYLA program motivated, energized, confident and better prepared to become leaders in both their schools and community. Once again, we will have some absolutely amazing speakers coming back to challenge and motivate the participants. Our presenters include a 7-time, world champion athlete, a NY Times best-selling author, and other nationally-known youth organization leaders.

Rotary District 6440 is truly changing lives and continues to make a significant contribution to the development of these future leaders in our district. PLEASE consider investing in the lives of our future leaders by sending a few students from your community to RYLA 2014. I can easily guarantee you and your club will find this to be one of the most rewarding things your Rotarians will do this year!

Sincerely,

Sean Nelson
RYLA Chairman
Rotary District 6440

**2014 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
Conference Program - Agenda for both sessions**

Session I – March 13-16 & Session II April 17-20

Thursday March 13 & April 17

7:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Arrive by Coach Bus- Settle in	Assigned Rooms
8:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Snack & Social	Micklewright Lodge
8:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Announcements	Micklewright Lodge
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Small Group Meetings	Various Locations
10:00 p.m.	Go To Assigned Rooms	Assigned Lodging
11:00 p.m.	Lights out	

Friday March 14 & April 18

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Micklewright Lodge
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Ice Breaker	Micklewright Lodge
9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Presentation # 1.... <i>Mr. Rick Metzger</i>	Runge Lodge
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Small Group Meetings	Various Locations
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Micklewright Lodge
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Team Building	Stations in Woods
1:45 – 4:30 p.m.	Presentation #2..... <i>Mr. Rick Metzger</i>	Runge Lodge
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Small Group Meetings	Various Locations
5:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Dinner	Micklewright Lodge
6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	President <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> Visit*	Micklewright Lodge
6:45 – 7:30 p.m.	President <i>Theodore Roosevelt</i> Visit*	Micklewright Lodge
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Skit Preparations	Various Locations
9:00 – 9:45 p.m.	Campfire & Smores	Outdoor Amphitheatre
9:45 – 11:00 p.m.	Free Time	
11:00 – 12:00 a.m.	Go To Assigned Rooms	Assigned Lodging
Midnight	Lights out	

Saturday and Sunday Schedules on reverse side

**Conference Program - Agenda for both sessions
(Continued)**

Saturday March 15 & April 19

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Micklewright Lodge
8:45 – 9:45 a.m.	Presentation #3....Ms. Mia Fontaine	Runge Lodge
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Presentation #4.... <i>Mr. Tom Carroll</i>	Micklewright Lodge
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Small Groups Meetings	Various Locations
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Micklewright Lodge
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Team Building	Low Ropes Courses
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Presentation #5.... <i>Rachel's Challenge</i>	Micklewright Lodge
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Small Group Meetings	Various Locations
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Free Time	
5:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Dinner	Micklewright Lodge
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Skit Preparations	Various Locations
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Skit Performances	Micklewright Lodge
9:00 – 12:00 a.m.	Dance (DJ)	Micklewright Lodge
12:30 – 1:00 a.m.	Room Time	Assigned Lodging
1:00 a.m.	Lights out	

Sunday March 16 & April 20

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Micklewright Lodge
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	What is Rotary.... <i>Sean Nelson</i>	Micklewright Lodge
10:15 – 11:15	Last Group Meetings	Various Locations
11:15 - Noon	Pack, Free Time & Shirt signing	Various Locations
Noon - 1:00	Lunch	Micklewright Lodge
1:00	Departure	

November 5, 2013

Dear RYLA Chairman/Club President, School Administrator or Parent,

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference offers participants a choice to attend one of two weekends featuring the same program format and speakers. Session I will be March 13-16, 2014 and Session II will be April 17-20, 2014. Students from the same school may attend either weekend of their choosing. No two students will be in the same small group at the camp. This is intentional.

RYLA was established by Rotary International as a special award for young people, of high school age, who have displayed leadership skills or potential, as shown by their active participation in groups or services. Each student is from Rotary District 6440. Participants will be involved in a three day program held at Edwards Camp & Conference Center in East Troy, Wisconsin. We have exclusive use of the camp both weekends.

The three day program includes motivational and educational speakers from around the United States. One presenter is the greatest speaker I have ever witnessed or heard! We also have a best-selling author joining us this year! The program will greatly enhance leadership skills through lectures, hands on activities, team leadership activities, and interaction with other student leaders from around the District.

The cost to Rotary Clubs is **\$325** per student, if applications are received before February 15, 2014. Cost is **\$350** for all applications received after February 15, 2014. This fee includes: coach bus transportation, to and from the conference, (there are eight different bus pick up and drop off locations per weekend) room and meals, speaker fees, staffing, night security, snacks, supplies, RYLA tee shirt, all photos and videos from the weekends will uplinked to a private Facebook page. Students who attend RYLA are expected to speak at the sponsoring Rotary Club sometime within the following few months after their attendance.

Once the students have been selected/accepted by their sponsoring Rotary Club (or by their school), and I receive their approved application, I will send them an Acceptance Packet.

Inside each packet is a:

- Letter congratulating the student for being selected to attend RYLA
- List of what to bring/what not to bring to camp
- Expectations letter (behavior and participation)
- Transportation information document and memos
- Full agenda for the weekend conference
- Camp map and other basic information

All transportation issues and other individual special needs may be handled directly with me.

Every single participant (more than 2,000 over the last eleven years) has rated the camp very high in terms of the experience. The average score over the last five years is an amazing 9.6 (out of 10), based on educational content and fun. Yes, fun is an element of this experience! This is both an educational experience as well as a reward for leadership skills already demonstrated. I can guarantee every person who attends, regardless of their intentions, leaves motivated, energized and better educated to lead! Need more information? Feel free to call me— anytime— at (630) 688-5165.

Sincerely,

Sean Nelson
RYLA Chairman - Rotary District 6440

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.

Send Completed Applications To:

Sean Nelson
RYLA Chairman Rotary District 6440
2s361 Milton Avenue
Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137

Questions, Comments, Concerns?
snelson@gepark.org or
(630)688-5165

Remember:

Checks must accompany applications

(Made out to Rotary District 6440)

Cost is \$325 per student prior to February 15
\$350 after February 15

RYLA 2013-2014 Critical Dates to Remember

December/January

Please provide the flyers and applications for RYLA to your Local High Schools. If you need more, please contact me.

Mid January –

Please follow up with schools to confirm they received the materials and have distributed the information to students.

Late January –

Students are to complete applications by the end of January. Please pick up completed applications from schools.

February –

All registration materials and checks must be sent to Sean Nelson for receipt **NO LATER THAN March 6, 2014**

The RYLA Process made easy:

1. I will send you or your club the packet of information, including applications.
2. Decide how many students your club is willing to sponsor to attend RYLA.
3. In December/January, forward all registration materials to your local high schools. If they have not participated in RYLA before, you will need to discuss the nature of the youth leadership conference with the school counselor or principal. Also be sure to notify them-- in advance-- the materials are forthcoming and will require action prior to February. If you are uncomfortable doing this, please let me know so I can speak with the school administration about RYLA.
4. It is important to let the schools know how many students your club is sponsoring because the students and school counselors need to understand this is a *selection* process. Some students may not be selected. Some clubs only sponsor a couple of students; if you do not inform the schools of this, you may receive dozens of applications. While this is not necessarily a bad thing, it does make the selection process more difficult (not only for the club, which usually selects the students, but also for the students who apply but are not selected).
5. Students are to submit completed applications to their schools by the end of January. Please contact the schools the last week of January to ensure you receive the completed applications ASAP. If the schools are not responsive, please let me know and I will contact them. Some schools simply do not understand the nature of Rotary and/or RYLA, so they are hesitant to promote the program. Schools familiar with the program in our district “aggressively” recruit students. They know this is a fantastic experience for their future leaders.
6. Once you receive the completed applications, make a copy for yourself and mail the applications **and check** (to cover total enrollment cost) to me for receipt **no later than March 6, 2014**. Payments for RYLA **must** be received with the applications. Checks should be made out to Rotary District 6440 for the number of students you are sponsoring. **Cost of the three day, all- inclusive conference is \$325.00** per student/participant.¹
7. I will send your club a confirmation report with the names of the students you are sponsoring and the session of RYLA they are attending. However, I encourage you to keep the information on the students you sponsor so that they can come back and give a presentation to your club regarding their experience.
8. At this point, you are finished. I will notify each applicant he/she has been accepted to attend RYLA, and I will provide them with all the necessary information.
9. It will be up to you to contact the students your club sponsored to invite them to come back and speak to your Rotary Club about their experience at RYLA. I will be happy to provide you with any participant’s address and phone number (upon request).

¹ If a registered student cancels prior to his/her scheduled attendance, I will try to fill the spot with an alternate, or you can propose one. However, given the fact we will have already incurred expenses (i.e., Transportation to the camp and cost of hiring staff at an 8 to 1 ratio), we are not able to provide clubs with a refund for *no-shows* or cancellations.