



# Young Royal

**What?** The vision is for Young Royal to be a week-long youth leadership program for rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders led by Rotarians and Camp Royal alumni.

**Where?** Northern California

**When?** Summer 2020

**Why?** Young Royal provides an empowering experience for rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders at a crucial time in their development and allows them to explore who they are as young adults.

Camp Royal alumni have the opportunity to give back to Rotary and continue their leadership skills development by volunteering as counselors.



## Call to Action

We need your help to turn this vision into a reality.

Would your club be interested in changing the lives of a few kids in your community by sponsoring their attendance at Young Royal?

## What is Young RYLA?

Young RYLA is a youth leadership program we hope to bring to District 5160 modeled off of a program that's been running in Colorado for 20 years. The purpose of Young RYLA is to foster leadership development and personal development in young students. YRYLA runs in conjunction with the high school RYLA program (in District 5160, this is Camp Royal), with selected past RYLA attendees serving as junior counselors leading the teams of eighth graders alongside their Rotarian senior counselors, who provide guidance, mentorship, and support.

The primary goal of the conference is for students to leave with new skills, confidence, and a passion for making a difference in their lives and their communities. This is achieved through small group activities, whole conference activities, guest speakers, skill instruction, and time for reflection. Everything that attendees do is geared towards one or more of the ten overall outcome objectives (such as Empathy, Confidence & Trust, Mindfulness, and Synergy).



## Why would Young RYLA be beneficial in District 5160?

Eighth grade is a critical time in development. It is around this time that kids tend to get a real sense of self beyond the context they have been raised in and begin to explore who they are as young adults. This involves exploring their identities, their interests, and their values. At the same time, these kids are typically beginning to lose their childlike creativity and imagination, are starting to become self-conscious and worry about how others perceive them, and are starting to succumb to peer pressure. As many Young RYLA attendees in districts 5440 and 5450 have explained, attending Young RYLA gives them the confidence and tools needed to navigate a difficult and important time in their lives and be intentional about entering young adulthood.

Young RYLA also encourages the continued leadership development for high school RYLA attendees. Volunteering as counselors allows select RYLA attendees to continue fostering the skills they gain from RYLA by sharing their knowledge and giving back to Rotary in a meaningful way. Many counselors in districts 5440 and 5450 explain that as incredible as attending RYLA is, serving as counselors is even more impactful as they are able to do fulfilling work and witness and engage in the growth of the middle schoolers they work with.