



Dear High School Counselor:

It's RYLA time again! Rotary Clubs throughout southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin are awarding \$350 scholarships to the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp at the beautiful YMCA Camp St. Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin. The dates are from 6:00 pm on Friday April 17 to 1:30 pm on April 21, 2020.

RYLA is the premier weekend intensive leadership training retreat for high school sophomores and juniors to enhance their leadership skills, citizenship and personal growth.

We understand that this involves missing two school days and this should be taken into consideration on the students selected. For our part, we make sure that the time away is well spent in helping the students learn skills that will help them be more productive in school, be good examples and mentors for their cohorts, and grow into responsible citizens.

For a quick view of the RYLA experience, check out the video clips of the camp at www.campryla.com.

Some examples of feedback from students past:

"Through RYLA we discovered that trust is crucial. Through the ropes course it was very evident because you literally could not accomplish anything if you didn't work as a team. But even in simple ways like small group talks, we learned to have great conversations with people we barely knew. By coming to RYLA I learned that with trust and friendship you can make anything happen."

"I had a great time on this trip. I was overwhelmed in the beginning because I didn't know anyone and I was never put into a situation like that before, but by the end I was able to make friendships that I hope to keep for the rest of my life. The activities were great, and I learned a lot from them. I am extremely grateful to have been a part of camp RYLA. Thank you guys so much for the opportunity."

"I would like to say that RYLA was an incredible, life-changing experience. I was very stressed about my future (where to go to college, what my occupation should be) before coming to RYLA, but RYLA helped me see things from a different perspective and see opportunities that I never thought were possible. Also, RYLA has forever changed how I am going to lead in the future. I learned that leading isn't about having the loudest voice or strongest opinion in the room, but a leader makes everyone feel special, loved, and wanted. I would like to thank all of the coordinators of RYLA for giving me a weekend that I will never forget."



WHAT WE ASK OF YOU:

- Communicate with the Rotary Club that is selecting and paying \$350 for the students to attend plus providing transportation (there is no cost to the student)
- Identify and nominate sophomores and/ or juniors from your school to participate in RYLA
- Identify alternates in case of last minute scheduling conflicts. (Alternates on file can also be used by other sponsoring clubs.)
- Provide application forms to the students; assist the Rotary Club in obtaining completed forms by deadlines below.

WHAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE:

- Fun and challenging leadership skill-building activities facilitated by high school seniors and college students who participated previously
- Interaction with local and regional business leaders who will lead sessions and demonstrate leadership skills
- Meeting about 100 sophomores and juniors from Minnesota and Wisconsin
- New insights, friends, and leadership development that will impact the rest of their lives

REQUIRED SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Student participation is restricted to HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE AND JUNIORS who plan to complete their senior year at school.
- Selection(s) SHOULD include an equal number of male and female Sophomore and Junior High students from the participating high schools
- Each participating student MUST have potential or established leadership skills. Each participant MUST be a FULL TIME student
- Be committed to attend the ENTIRE weekend - no late arrivals/early releases allowed *

**We can make limited arrangements for late arrivals on Friday or early departure on Tuesday.*



OTHER SELECTION CRITERIA:

Although we encourage flexibility in your selection criteria, please consider the following qualities as a guide to selecting your student representative(s):

- Superior citizenship qualities Quality and/or significance of participant's extra-curricular activities
- Academic Honors or Awards
- Current and Recent Student Leadership Positions
- Work Experience
- High moral character
- Cooperative and willing to participate as a member of a group
- Informed about current events

TIMELINE:

- Check with your Rotary Club for their application deadline
- Selected students will be notified by the clubs. Depending on the number of applicants, some may be placed on a wait list.
- Selected students will be notified and provided a link to fill out an electronic registration.
- After confirmation of the registration, an information packet will be emailed to the students. Parental release forms and a medical history form are included in that packet and must be filled out and returned.



Rotary Club Name: _____
Club Contact Name: _____
Club Contact Email: _____

RYLA 2020 NOMINATION FORM

To be completed and SIGNED BY STUDENT AND PARENT.

This is not a registration form. Selected students will need to complete the online registration form.

Selected students will be notified with additional information and registration materials. Additional information is also available at www.campryla.com. All fees for this workshop are paid for by the Rotary Club.

Student's Name: _____ Male _____ Female _____

Preferred Name: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Student Cell Phone: (____) _____

Student Email: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent / Guardian Name _____

Parent /Guard. Cell Phone _____ Parent Email _____

School Name: _____

Student Hobbies/Interests:

Student Clubs/Sports/Music Participation:



Rotary Club Name: _____
Club Contact Name: _____
Club Contact Email: _____

Student Honors and/or Awards:

Why I want to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program:

I agree to participate in RYLA Camp, April 17 to 21, 2020, for the entire weekend. I agree to notify the local, sponsoring Rotary Club Contact no later than April 1, 2020 if I cannot attend so that another student can be selected to take my place and the sponsoring Rotary Club will not lose the registration fee.

Signed by Student _____

Signed by Parent _____



Information for Sponsoring Rotary Clubs (Districts 5950 and 5960)

KEY STEPS FOR CLUB REGISTRATION

1. Fill out the [2020 Rotary Club Electronic Registration](#) This helps us plan for staffing and track payments.
2. Select your students. (You can use the [2020 Nomination Form](#) if you wish).
3. Have your selected students fill out, the electronic [Student Registration](#). We do not need the nomination form. The information we need is all on the electronic registration.
4. Have students send ****2020 Release Form**** [must have to attend camp](#) to applications@campryla.com This form must be signed by a parent/guardian for underage students. This is mandatory by the YMCA.
5. Arrange transportation for your students. Note that non-parents need to go through the [Rotary District 5960 youth protection](#) program (or equivalent 5950 program)
6. Invite your students to attend a meeting to share their experiences.

Rotary Clubs from Minnesota and Western Wisconsin may sponsor students to attend Camp RYLA. Our programming targets juniors in high school, and we will accept sophomores and seniors. Preference will be given to clubs that sponsor both a male and female student.

Cost

There is no cost to the participating student. Clubs pay **\$350** per student. Please return with invoice. Registrations after April 1 will be charged **\$375**.

Make checks payable to:

Rotary Club of St. Paul
401 N. Robert Street, Suite 150
Saint Paul, MN 55101
(please put RYLA in the memo line)



Information for Sponsoring Rotary Clubs (Districts 5950 and 5960)

Transportation

Your Rotary Club is responsible for your students' transportation from their home to Camp St. Croix and from the Camp St. Croix and from the St. Paul Rotary Tuesday Lunch Meeting (site of the closing event) to their home. We require that the student bring the name and phone number, preferably cell phone, of the person(s) who will be picking them up on Tuesday. **Students are not allowed to drive their own cars to Camp St. Croix!**

General Info

- Registrations on or before April 1 will be invoiced at \$350. Registrations after April 1 will be \$375
- If you have a cancellation, please try and find another student or sponsor a student from another club.
- Cancellations before March 31, there is a 100% refund. For cancellations before April 6, there is a 50% refund. No refund for cancellations after April 6.
- Registration Deadline is April 7
- If sending multiple students, please keep gender balance in mind. If we fill up with one gender (it is usually girls) we may need to limit registration to the other gender.
- RYLA ends at the St. Paul Rotary Lunch Meeting. Location will be announced shortly.
- If herding teenagers while sleep deprived, making friends, mentoring youth, and having a fun and enriching experience at beautiful camp sounds like something you would like, or sounds like someone you know, let us know. Eager volunteers are always welcome.
- We might be able to arrange a short program for you club, depending on our volunteers' schedule. Reach out to us at info@campryla.com
- We recommend bringing your students to a meeting. Your members will really like to hear about their experience. Similarly, bringing the counselor, teacher, or principal from the school will help maintain the connection to the school.