



## 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](http://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.