

Camp RYLA 2023

“Reach For The Future”



Welcoming

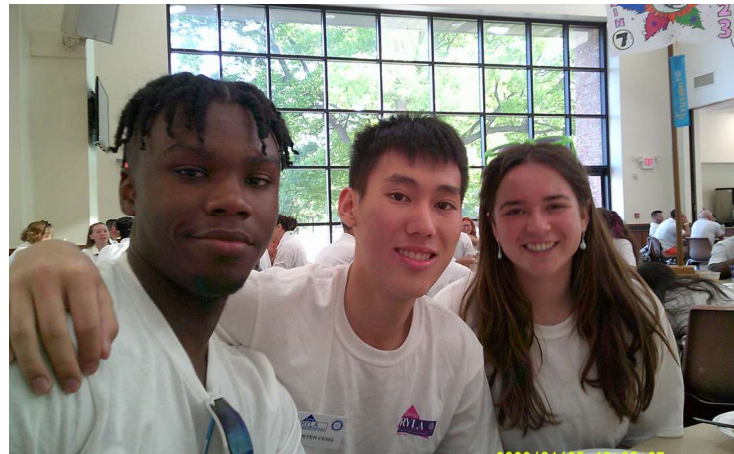
Starting from the moment I step into RYLA Camp the energy and **enthusiasm** have been with me throughout the entire week.

I felt nervous when I saw a crowd gathered around the car. However, as I witnessed everyone encouraging me to run to grab my gear and high-fives with me, I started to blend into the energized and excited atmosphere.





My Cabin 7



My roommate took the initiative showed me around the cabin and introduced the theme of our cabin when I arrived. Every act is so friendly I feel like I was in a new family. On the very first day, I met my cabin members, and they quickly became my closest family throughout the week. Our energy level was always high, and we often cheered each other on. we would buckle up our backpacks in pairs while walking to the dining hall, having a one-on-one conversation to ensure no one felt left behind. Even after the camp, I still have a strong relationship with them. At night we have a reflection meeting where we get to share our opinions and **shout out** to someone who demonstrates leadership. (Apply this to ILTexas)

Team-building Activities

On the second day, We had a variety of icebreaker activities to get to know each other like time-obstacle courses. At first, everyone wanted to express their ideas and thoughts and we talked over each other. As we moved on, we came up plan to form a circle before we started and let everyone get to speak.



Committees

RYLA is a community where individuals take on various roles to keep the camp operational. I was on the Activity Committee, where we formulated the rules for Volleyball and Racketball competitions. Being part of committees taught me that everyone can play a role in contributing to the overarching success of the community.



Alumni and Speakers

It's amazing how campers return to RYLA from the previous year and even decades ago.

There are successful leaders in all kinds of domains return to RYLA to share their experiences. They were in the same place as we do years ago and RYLA was a pivot point in their life.



Barron Ryan



My Staff and Assistant
Counselor Tanner Aaron

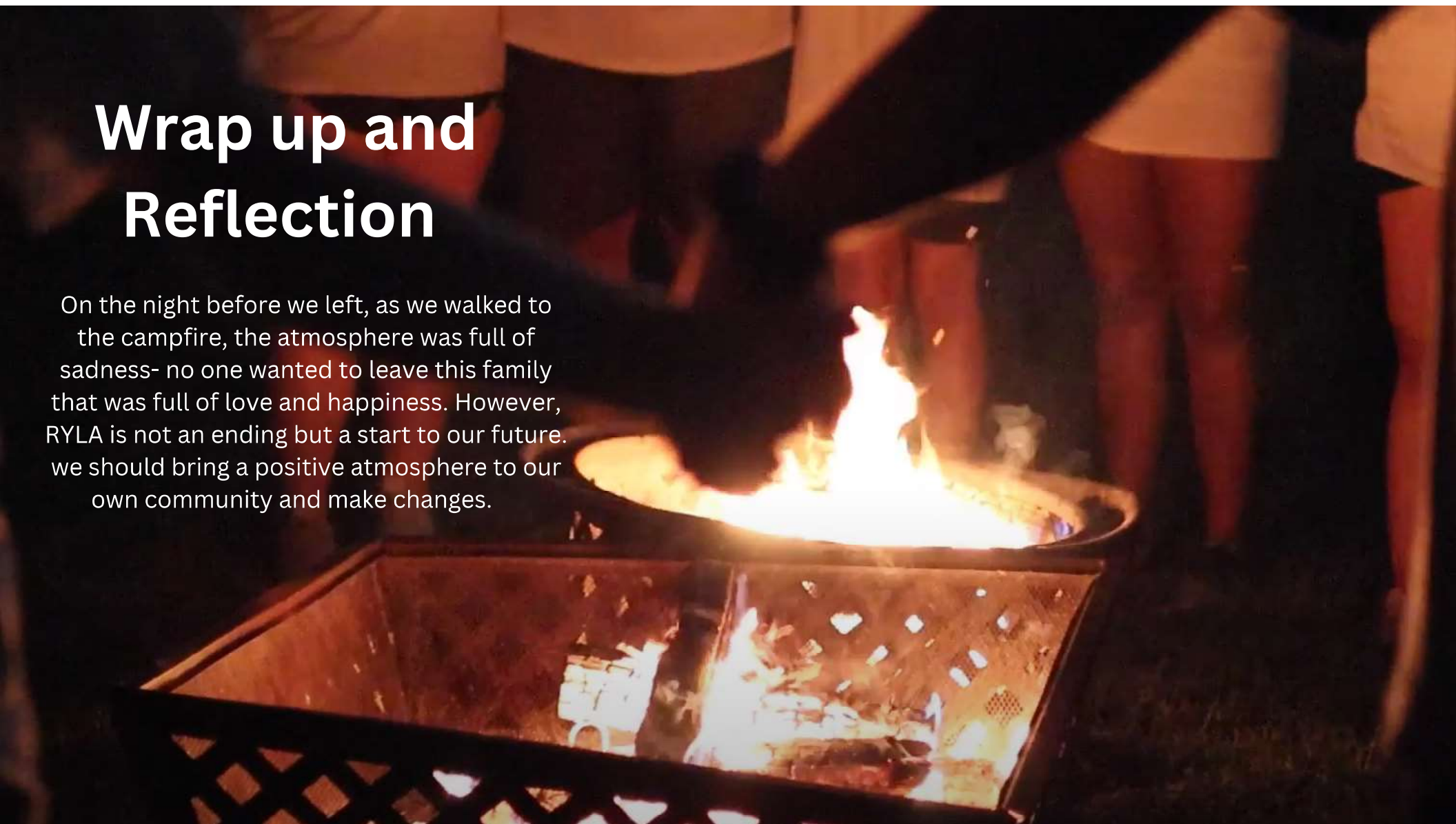
My Favorite Speaker

Mr. Troy taught us how cheer and encouragement are powerful. The thick wooden board was almost impossible to break but if we believe in ourselves and **step out of our Comfort Zone**, it is no longer difficult.



Wrap up and Reflection

On the night before we left, as we walked to the campfire, the atmosphere was full of sadness- no one wanted to leave this family that was full of love and happiness. However, RYLA is not an ending but a start to our future. we should bring a positive atmosphere to our own community and make changes.



RYLA has been a life-changing experience for me. I have been to many summer camps before, but I feel like RYLA is the place where people care about my personal growth and connections.

RYLA is the place where I set aside everything just to reflect on obstacles and fears in the past, overcome them, and look forward to the future.

RYLA is perfect where it seems unreal and impossible to replicate them in our own community. However, I believe that our school has the potential to apply RYLA-style leadership activities.



Thank you

