

Important Updates and Changes for RYLA 2018

Hello Rotarians,

We hope you are all doing well, and looking forward to our upcoming RYLA conference. Our team is already hard at work planning RYLA 2018, and we would like to update you on some changes we have made to this year's program!

RYLA 2018 will be held from May 10-May 13 at Camp Chestermere, in Chestermere AB. Please note the change in location from previous years. In the past, we have offered a bus from Calgary to Canmore for delegates. This year, we will not be offering this transportation and are instead encouraging Rotarians to drive their sponsored delegates to Camp Chestermere. We would also like to invite these Rotarians to attend a portion of our Thursday evening programming, as there are some activities we would love to have your participation in! This is a great way to see firsthand what RYLA is all about, and involve yourself in the RYLA experience of your sponsored delegates. If you are interested in volunteering to drive your sponsored delegates to Chestermere, please email us.

In order to create a more efficient and fair application process, we have included a few short answer questions for delegates in our online application form. These are to ensure that the delegate understands why they have been nominated to attend RYLA 2018. The questions will also provide the delegates with an opportunity to reflect on their past leadership experience and how they can improve their skills as a leader.

In past years, we have allowed delegates to leave RYLA for short periods of time for ventures such as sports events, and other personal endeavours. Our schedule is designed for delegates to be present for the entire program, and delegates who leave for other commitments will not experience the full impact of RYLA. For this reason, we will no longer accommodate other commitments to take place during RYLA that require the delegate to leave. Please make sure delegates are able to attend the entire conference before nominating them.

This year we have added an Early Bird registration period. Clubs that pay for their delegate registrations by March 1, 2018, will receive a \$50 discount on their fees, totalling \$450 instead of the usual \$500. The deadline for full payment will be April 28, 2018. **To take advantage of this discount, please email us, noting how many delegates you intend to nominate for RYLA 2018 as soon as possible.** As well as nominating your indicated number of delegates, we suggest that clubs keep a list of 'backup' delegates who would be available to attend the conference on short notice, in the event of a last-minute cancellation. The delegates placed on this waitlist should be made aware of the dates of RYLA 2018 and be prepared to attend for the entire weekend on a few days' notice. If none of your nominated delegates cancel, this waitlist can provide a starting point for next years' nominations.

To wrap up this letter, we again remind you to email us with the number of delegates you intend to sponsor this year, as well as any questions or concerns you may have about the above changes. We would also like to thank you all for your support of RYLA, and for working with us to ensure the best possible experience for our participating delegates. We look forward to communicating with you in the future and we already can't wait for another exciting RYLA conference!

Sincerely,

Claire Martin and Alisha Kurji
Club Relations Committee
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