

2026 Dates

JUNIOR RYLA
SENIOR RYLA

July 27 – August 1, 2026
August 3 – August 8, 2026

What is RYLA?

An opportunity for youth to attend a 6-day camp that focuses on leadership developmental, personal development, serving their community and recreational activities. RYLA begins at the club level with the selection of students to attend.

JUNIOR RYLA for youth aged 12-14 on first day of camp
SENIOR RYLA for youth aged 15-17 on first day of camp

- Participants will be selected and sponsored by local Rotary Clubs
- Clubs are encouraged to send two students to either or both camps
- Clubs are encouraged to send one male and one female
- Clubs may send more students but should check with the Chair or Registrar to confirm space
- Approximately 40 students will be allowed to attend each of the two camps.
- The camp is held at **Anglican Memorial Camp, Clear Lake, MB**
- The camp follows a “hands on” and “learn by doing” approach

What is the purpose of RYLA?

- To demonstrate Rotary’s respect and concern for the youth. Rotary clubs around the world are dedicated to helping young people develop their leadership skills to the fullest.
- To encourage, assist and train selected youth to become responsible citizens and develop new leadership skills.
- To publicly recognize the high qualities of the many young people in our communities.
- To promote an atmosphere that will provide everyone with a basis of insight and understanding for intelligent leadership.
- To help the youth realize their potential and to exercise their experiences within their life and their communities.
- To enthuse young people and provide them with improved leadership skills. This enthusiasm and advanced skills are brought back to the sponsoring community.
- To expose many young people, their families and peer groups the Ideals of Service of Rotary International.
- To expose young people to the work that Rotary does in their community and around the world.
- To prepare the students for the challenge of becoming involved in Rotary in their communities by joining Interact, Rotoract, participating in Rotary programs, or helping in fundraising efforts.

Strong leaders are made – not born.

Leadership skills and principles are learned – not inherited.

What is the selection criteria for RYLA?

Each Rotary Club in District 5550 is invited to select young people in their community to attend RYLA. Clubs are encouraged to send one female and one male student to each camp, though can choose to send more if they are able.

Clubs are reminded that they are to meet with applicants before registering to ensure they meet the criteria. Below is a list of suggested criteria, but clubs may choose to add to this list.

SUGGESTED CRITERIA

- Leadership experience or potential as shown by active participation in youth groups and/or service as a youth leader
- High moral character
- Cooperative and willing spirit to participate in group activities
- Knowledge of current events
- Able to communicate clearly
- Is personable and presents themselves in a respectful manner
- Perform well in school and/or work
- Involvement in school or extra curricular activities

Why send students to RYLA?

- Participants will receive information to take-home about Rotary initiatives and other Rotary Youth Programs, exposing them to Rotary International and all the work that Rotarians do at home and abroad
- Sponsoring Rotary Clubs will gain the satisfaction of knowing they have given these students an opportunity to better understand themselves at a challenging and critical developmental age
- Sponsoring Rotary Clubs will have a youth they can contact to assist in Rotary Projects
- RYLA alumni tend to continue to stay connected to Rotary through other youth programs or joining an Interact or Rotaract club

What if we can't find students to send to RYLA?

No problem! We often have applicants that apply without sponsoring Rotary Clubs. If your club is having trouble finding students in your community but are wanting to support a youth to attend this wonderful experience, please contact the registrar or the current chair and we will work with you to find a camper to sponsor.

RYLA Topics of Interest

Though the focus of camp changes from year to year, below is a list of topics that have been explored in the past.

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| • Self-Esteem | • Leadership skills | • Event planning |
| • Feelings and managing emotions | • Self-awareness | • Fundraising |
| • Healthy relationships | • Youth Entrepreneurs | • Stewardship and service |
| • Communication skills | • Business planning | • Raising awareness |
| • Problem Solving | • Career planning | |
| • Risk Taking | • Environmental interests | |
| | • Self-Defense | |

Rotary Club Responsibilities

****PLEASE REVIEW THIS SECTION CAREFULLY****

1. Send the name, email and phone number of Club's Youth Programming Lead and an alternate contact person to the District Chair no later **December 31**. Alternatively, your club may choose to have a contact specifically for RYLA. In this case, please forward their information to the District Chair.
2. Find, interview, and select participants to attend RYLA. Using the criteria provided. A sample applications will be made available on the RYLA website for clubs to use in their search, however, the final registration will be done ONLINE.
 - We encourage you to reach out to school counsellors in your community
 - Share RYLA's social media with potential candidates
3. Once your students are selected, have them fill in the online registration form. NO PDFs will be accepted this year.
4. Send payment to RYLA Treasurer – Cheques can be post-dated **July 1**. Please have payment submitted by **July 15**.
 - Cost for each student is \$800, regardless of need for transportation.
5. Ensure your participants are notified of their successful application as soon as possible.
6. Invite students back to present about their experiences

****New transportation route is in place for this year. All Saskatchewan campers will be asked to meet in Regina and will be taken to Brandon, MB where they will then be picked-up by the Winnipeg bus and be taken to camp.**

PLEASE, DO NOT PERMIT STUDENTS TO DRIVE THEMSELVES TO THE CAMP. The District Chairperson must approve alternate methods prior to camp.

Rotary Club Schedules

****PLEASE REVIEW THIS SECTION CAREFULLY****

December	Identify a RYLA contact and one alternate within the club and share contact information with the District Chairperson and Registrar by December 31
January	Review the goals of RYLA and develop an action plan suitable to your community to attract interest in attending the RYLA camp. This could include asking members of your club if they know of any possible applicants, or contacting schools in your community. Promotional materials will be made available on the RYLA website.
February to April	Reach out to schools in your area and ask them for potential candidates. Share promotional material. Have previous campers share their experiences. You can use the application form found on the RYLA website to gather information, or you can use something your club has put together.
April - June	Meet with participants and discuss with them the goals of camp. Once your club has chosen campers to sponsor, fill out the official online registration . Information you need to complete this registration will be on the RYLA website.
June 16th	Deadline for applications. Registration confirmations will be sent out to club contacts and successful applicants after this date. If you have suitable candidates that you cannot sponsor, invite them to email the Registrar or District Chair to receive a Need Sponsor Application.
June & July	Contact parents of successful candidates and provide them with basic information about the camp. The District Chairperson and the registrar will be following up with specific information in the weeks leading up to camp.
July 15	Payments due to Treasurer.
August	RYLA
August & September	Schedule the student to return to your club for a presentation about their RYLA experience.
December	Reach out to campers and remind them of their Day 7 date

RYLA Contacts

District Chair

Jorrel Camuyong
rylachair5550@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ed Thompson
edthompson19@gmail.com