Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

RYLA is Rotary’s leadership training program for young people. RYLA emphasizes the development of leadership skills, citizenship and community service, and personal growth and development. Through a 4 day 3 night conference focusing on skills such as listening and communication, time management and team building, young adults will gain an awareness of ways to manage their own lives, serve their communities and make their mark on society.

Each year more than 9,000 young adults are sponsored in RYLA programs by Rotary Clubs in over 25 countries. Rotary Clubs around the world are dedicated to helping our leaders of tomorrow develop their leadership skills to the fullest. Those who complete the RYLA program are better able to successfully manage their own lives and careers and make a difference.

Kettunen Center
Tustin, MI
June 17—20, 2020

Sponsored by Your local Rotary Club & District 6290
Rotary International District 6290’s RYLA Life Leadership Conference has been shaping the lives of future leaders each summer since 1949. Coming from large cities and crossroads communities alike in Michigan and Ontario, participants meet exchange students from other countries and discover a unique blend of intellectual curiosity and cultural diversity.

The program challenges young men and women who have proven leadership skills. With an agenda designed to meet the needs of these future leaders, the speakers and discussion topics test the depth of thought and provoke stimulating discussion as these intellectually gifted students share their lives, feelings, and thoughts on significant issues pertaining to their world, their country, and their community.

Past conferees have found this experience to be the most rewarding of their educational careers. School officials report a marked difference in the lives of returning conferees. Sponsoring Rotary clubs and college counselors indicate that these young people are more than willing to take an active role in their communities as a result of their attendance at this conference.

**Your Rotary club can support RYLA by**

- Asking school administrators and Interact club advisers to promote RYLA
- Inviting former RYLA participants to speak about their experience at a club meeting
- Budgeting to send local participants to the district RYLA event
- Recruiting young people with leadership potential in the community to attend district RYLA
- Organizing RYLA reunions or follow-up events
- Contacting your district RYLA chair to find out how your club can participate

**Candidate Criteria**

Most successful candidates for RYLA meet some or all of the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated leadership experience or potential
- A cooperative nature and willingness to participate in a group
- An awareness of current events and international issues
- Strong communication skills
- Good performance in school or work
- Enthusiasm for sharing newfound skills with others
- Proven dedication to community service