



## **PURPOSE**

The Rotary Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders is an initiative by Rotary International District 6330, uniting Rotary Clubs in Michigan and Ontario. Similar leadership conferences, often known as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), are hosted by many Rotary clubs and districts globally. This Seminar integrates compelling speaker presentations, interactive group exercises, and in-depth discussions covering diverse subjects such as career insights, global awareness, service prospects, leadership, and teamwork. Participation is exclusively for students who have already demonstrated an interest in and aptitude for leadership.

The efficacy of this program relies on the wholehearted engagement of every student participant in all planned activities. Collaborative exchanges of leadership experiences and ideas among student leaders, mentored by student counselors, form a crucial element of this program.

This Seminar spans a jam-packed weekend, commencing with registration on Friday, May 10th in the afternoon and concluding with a closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon. Sessions are scheduled in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Although Free time is limited, our goal is to optimize the students' time together. The Seminar will conclude early on Sunday, May 12th.

## **HISTORY**

The inception of the Seminar For Tomorrow's Leaders dates back to 1961, initiated by the late Herb J. Farrow, a former District Governor and member of the Rotary Club of London East. Inspired by a similar program, Farrow envisioned its significance for aspiring student leaders within District 6330. Frank White, a Rotarian from Lapeer, further endorsed Farrow's idea, propelling its establishment. Consequently, this program in District 6330 predates many similar initiatives worldwide. Initially conducted at church camps, the Seminar transitioned to college campuses in 1981, becoming coeducational. Since then, facilities at Western University in London, Ontario, and campuses in Michigan have served as hosts for the Seminar. Owing to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seminar transitioned to a fully online format in both 2021 and 2022. However, we are extatic to report that we are back in person for 2024!

## **CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPANT SELECTION**

In the process of selecting student participants, each Rotary club may establish a dedicated youth committee or delegate this responsibility to an existing committee or director. The club determines the number of student

participants it will sponsor and typically collaborates with secondary school principals and guidance counselors to identify suitable candidates. Here are guidelines for identifying ideal candidates:

- Emphasize the selection of students who authentically exhibit leadership skills and showcase potential for future leadership roles. Seek individuals acknowledged within their schools and communities for their positive leadership attributes, coupled with active involvement in school and extracurricular activities.
- Look for students displaying promise to emerge as leaders in various fields, be it business, industry, education, science, community service, or political realms. This Seminar offers a unique platform for these prospective leaders to engage with peers who share the commitment to shaping a better world in the upcoming generation.
- It is recommended to prioritize students who have not participated in other leadership conferences, promoting diverse experiences and learning opportunities.
- While academic achievement could be considered, it should not serve as the sole criterion for selection.
- Encouragement is extended to clubs to ensure a balanced representation by sending an equal number of young men and women.
- Request local schools to nominate students typically in their penultimate year of secondary school (usually Grade 11). This timing ensures that the outcomes of their leadership experience can significantly benefit the school and its programs in the subsequent year.
- Please note, students who have previously attended the Seminar are ineligible for participation again.

## **LOCATION AND FACILITIES**

This year, all students will be accommodated at Ontario Hall, a spacious and self-contained student residence located on the grounds of Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. All sessions, meals, and activities will be held within the residence premises. Presentations and group activities are scheduled in the main lounge. Every attempt is made to assign roommates from different schools and, whenever feasible, pair Canadians with Americans.

Most participants will be transported to Western University and picked up by Rotarians from their sponsoring clubs. Students who commute by personal vehicle will have designated parking in a well-lit lot nearby. As a part of the Seminar regulations, students are requested to voluntarily surrender their keys at the Rotary registration desk for the entire duration of the program. Given the comprehensive schedule of engaging activities, there won't be opportunities for shopping, sightseeing, or visiting friends and family, as the agenda is tightly packed and free time is limited. Therefore, students will not be permitted to leave the campus from the time of registration until the Seminar concludes.

Students are advised to pack clothing appropriate for informal program sessions, a casual evening dance, and potential outdoor activities.

## **STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

Attendance is compulsory for all sessions within the program, as each session is interconnected. Lateness, missing sessions, or abstaining from activities contradicts the expected standards of leadership behavior. The Rotarians who

generously volunteer their time and efforts to orchestrate this Seminar, alongside their fundraising efforts to make this program feasible, eagerly anticipate collaborating with these enthusiastic young leaders. Our aim is to wholeheartedly engage with these students, fostering a positive and productive partnership, thereby negating the need for monitoring inappropriate conduct. Historically, due to the careful selection of student leaders in past years, such issues have seldom arisen. To ensure that every participant derives maximum benefit from the experience, any student who does not actively engage in sessions or fails to adhere to fundamental conduct guidelines will be required to depart.

Each Ontario-based student should carry their health card, while students from Michigan ought to ensure they possess out-of-country health insurance coverage.

Furthermore, Michigan students should be mindful of the necessity for government-issued photo identification (typically a passport) to enter Canada and re-enter the US upon the weekend's conclusion. It's advisable to consult with US customs officials regarding acceptable identification requirements.

Although students need no money and all meals are provided, they may find it handy to bring some Canadian cash/coins to purchase items from the vending machines.

## **AGENDA/ACTIVITIES**

The Seminar has a meticulously planned agenda packed with various small group activities aimed at delving into diverse leadership styles. These activities will serve as a platform for students to introspect their personal leadership approach and its impact on those around them. To further ignite thoughts on leadership and encourage reflections on their perception of the world, three dynamic speakers have been carefully selected. Their engaging talks are designed to challenge students' perspectives and inspire critical thinking.

The sessions will include interactive discussions with the speakers, followed by dialogues among student leaders, fostering an understanding of the significant responsibility awaiting them as future leaders. Additionally, students will have the invaluable opportunity to exchange viewpoints and address concerns alongside their fellow student leaders.

Upon arrival at the Seminar on Friday afternoon, students will receive a comprehensive agenda outlining the schedule and activities planned for the duration of the event.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS**

Students with dietary restrictions, mobility issues, or disabilities that may require accommodations should note those needs on their application. We feel that special needs should not be an impediment to being a leader and will do our best to accommodate.

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

The attrition policy of the venue bases penalties for cancellations on sliding scale of total losses related to room and food service revenues, Rotary District 6330's Seminar For Tomorrow's Leaders will assess refunds for canceled bookings based on final charges of the venue and overhead cost following the event. Depending on the date of cancellation, refunds may vary.

## **WANT TO KNOW MORE**

**For questions, comments, or concerns, contact us at [d6330ryla@gmail.com](mailto:d6330ryla@gmail.com) or contact your sponsor Rotary Club. We look forward to seeing you on May 10th!**

**Sincerely,**

**The Rotary Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders District Committee**