



## Information for Rotary Clubs, Schools, Students, and Parents

May 10–12, 2024 | Western University

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### Purpose

The Rotary Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders is a youth service program organized by Rotary International District 6330, with Rotary Clubs in Michigan and Ontario. Many Rotary clubs and districts around the world hold similar leadership conferences, often referred to as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). The Seminar includes presentations by engaging speakers, interactive group activities, and thoughtful discussions on topics such as career knowledge, international understanding, service opportunities, leadership, and team development. The program has been designed only for students who have already shown leadership interests and skills.

The effectiveness of the program depends upon the commitment of every student participant to be fully involved in each of the planned activities. The sharing of leadership experience and ideas with other student leaders, under the guidance of student counselors, is a vital part of the program. The Seminar is a packed-solid weekend, beginning with registration on Friday, May 12 in the afternoon and concluding with the wrap-up session on Sunday afternoon. There will be morning, afternoon, and evening sessions, with limited free time. We want to make the most of the students' time together! The Seminar will adjourn early in the afternoon on Sunday, May 14.

### History

The Seminar For Tomorrow's Leaders was started in 1961 by Past District Governor, the late Herb J. Farrow, a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of London East, who observed a similar program and recognized its potential value for student leaders in District 6330. His idea was enthusiastically supported by a recommendation from Lapeer Rotarian Frank White. Thus, the District 6330 program is older than most programs now held throughout the world. The Seminar became coeducational and moved from church camps to college campuses in 1981. Since 1981, facilities at Western University in London, Ontario, and campuses in Michigan, have been used to host the Seminar. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seminar was entirely online in 2021 and 2022.

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### Participant Selection Criteria

When it comes to selecting student participants, each Rotary club may establish a youth committee or may assign responsibility to an existing committee or director. The club then determines the number of student participants it will sponsor and will usually work with secondary school principals and guidance counselors to select those student participants. Here are a few tips for choosing the best candidates:

- Selecting students who demonstrate genuine leadership skills and the potential for leadership is critical to the program's success. Look for students who have been recognized in their schools and communities for their positive leadership abilities and history of involvement in school and extracurricular activities.
- Look for students with the potential to be one of tomorrow's leaders in business, industry, education, science, community, or political life. This Seminar is designed as a unique opportunity for these future leaders to rub shoulders with others who will share the responsibility for making the world a better place in the next generation.
- We recommend selecting students who have *not* participated in other leadership conferences.
- Academic excellence may be considered, but it should not be the primary criterion.
- We encourage clubs to send equal numbers of young men and women.
- Ask your local schools to recommend students who are in the penultimate year of secondary school (usually Grade 11). This way, the outcomes of their leadership experience can be of significant benefit to the school and its programs in the following year.
- ***A student who has attended the Seminar in the past cannot attend again.***

### Location and Facilities

This year all students will be housed at Ontario Hall, a fairly large, self-contained student residence on the campus of Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. All sessions and activities, including meals, will be in the residence. Presentations and group activities will take place in the

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main lounge. Every effort is made to room students with someone from a different school, and where possible, Canadians with Americans.

Most participants will be brought to Western University and picked up again by Rotarians from their sponsoring club. Students who drive themselves park in a well-lit lot nearby. Students must leave their keys voluntarily at the Rotary registration desk for the duration of the Seminar. Full involvement in the program does not leave time for shopping, sightseeing, or visiting friends and relatives, as the agenda is full and free time is limited. Students will not be given permission to leave the campus at any time between registration and adjournment.

Students should bring clothing suitable for informal program sessions, an informal evening dance, and some outdoor activities.

### **Student Responsibility**

All sessions in the program are interrelated, and therefore attendance is required for every session. Sleeping in, skipping a session, or opting out of an activity is not an acceptable leadership behavior. The Rotarians who volunteer their time and energy to convene this Seminar, and who raise thousands of dollars to make this program possible, look forward to meeting and working with these dynamic young leaders. We want to enjoy our association with these students to the fullest, and that means we don't want to have to police inappropriate student behavior. Because of the careful selection of student leaders in previous years, this has rarely been a problem. To ensure maximum benefit to all participants, any student who does not participate fully in the sessions, or who does not choose to follow basic guidelines of conduct, will be required to leave.

Each Ontario student should have their health card with them and students from Michigan should be sure they have out-of-country health insurance coverage.

An additional consideration for Michigan students is the requirement for government-issued photo ID (usually a passport) to be able to enter Canada and return to the US at the end of the weekend. Please check with US customs officials to see what is acceptable.

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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 will involve students in a number of small group activities that will allow them to examine leadership styles and will challenge them to examine their personal leadership style and how it affects those around them. Three fantastic speakers, who will stimulate students' thoughts about leadership and about their attitudes toward the world around them, have been chosen. Open discussion with the speakers, followed by dialogue with other student leaders will help them discover what an important responsibility they have as future leaders. Students will also have the opportunity to share their views and concerns with other student leaders.

Students will receive a detailed agenda when they arrive at the Seminar on Friday afternoon.

### **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.

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 10!

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