

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

We hope that you've had a strong start to 2022! Even though the new year has only just begun, the RYLA Team has been hard at work preparing for another incredible RYLA Conference. That being said, we felt it pertinent to share details regarding our current trajectory before launching the Conferee Application Process, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to develop.

First, while we enjoyed our experience at Holmes Campgrounds last year, **we intend to return to Mount Saint Mary's College for RYLA 2022**. However, we understand that given the evolving state of the pandemic, we may have to readjust our plans and host RYLA at a different site if we cannot hold the conference at MSMC this year. Thus, **please be prepared in advance for any changes that we may have to make regarding the conference location** during the months ahead.

Second, **we will require all participants, including staff and conferees alike, to be fully vaccinated and receive booster shots (if eligible) against COVID-19** at least two weeks before the conference begins. Prior to the start of the conference, **we will require every participant to submit proof of full vaccination**. Likewise, just like last year, we will require all participants to follow a series of health guidelines, such as wearing face masks while indoors and maintaining six feet social distance as much as possible. These measures have been put in place to maintain as much safety as possible.

Finally, the RYLA Team has altered the number of conferees that Rotary clubs can sponsor for RYLA 2022: this year, **each club may sponsor up to 3 conferees, and they may add up to 2 conferees to the waitlist**. Please be sure to utilize the waitlist as our hope is to be able to host as many students as possible this year.

On that same note, **only sophomores may be sponsored** to attend RYLA 2022. We hope that these changes will expand the accessibility of attending RYLA while also maintaining safety in light of the pandemic.

We would like to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we navigate another uncertain year. While we hope that we can safely enjoy RYLA without any worry, our team is preparing for all potential iterations of RYLA. We cannot guarantee that we can fully return to 'normal' RYLA, but we will continue to work as hard as we can to make this another special year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact RYLA Executive Directors Joshua Jordan or Lauren Steinitz, both of whom can be reached at RYLA7210@gmail.com. Thank you again for your support!

Yours in Rotary,
The RYLA Team