

# Rotary District 7210: RYLA 2024

Dear Club RYLA Committee Chair,

With your help, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference will once again be a great experience for all involved. The District RYLA committee has created this packet so that you may properly:

- Promote the RYLA program in your community
- Interview and select applicants to attend this year's RYLA Conference
- Send completed applications to the District RYLA committee in a timely manner

Qualified candidates are high school students finishing their sophomore year who demonstrate the potential to benefit from a program designed to nurture and instill confidence in their leadership skills and abilities.

Your club may sponsor a maximum of **FIVE** students, at a cost of **\$500 per student**. We also respectfully request that you sponsor only your own students, and refrain from sponsoring students for another club. **Should your club desire to sponsor more than five students, you may request to add up to five students to the RYLA 2024 Waitlist.** Likewise, we strongly encourage all clubs to take advantage of the waitlist, given the possibility that additional students might be able to attend depending on the size of the conference.

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Please follow the procedures outlined in the enclosed material.

If you have questions, please contact RYLA Recruitment Director Sarah Valdes or Executive Director Amber Krisch, via email at [RYLA7210@gmail.com](mailto:RYLA7210@gmail.com).

- Please make copies of this packet right away, especially the application.
- You may include the high school administrators in your promotion plans, but be sure to have Rotarians interview and select the students you sponsor for RYLA.
- The first five students you select to sponsor are in; the District RYLA committee does not need to give approval. Names and email addresses of all applicants (selected and to be placed on the waitlist) should be submitted from **April 15th, 2024 - May 1st** to the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/Ge9WvSqBDNNt7KtA7>.

Thank you for your time, assistance and cooperation;  
We are looking forward to another exceptionally successful year!

**LIST OF ENCLOSED MATERIALS FOR  
RYLA CANDIDATE SELECTION AND REGISTRATION**

**MATERIALS FOR THE ROTARY CLUB:**

1. PROCEDURES FOR RYLA CANDIDATE SELECTION AND REGISTRATION: This is your guide for the entire process of student selection and registration. Please read and follow the instructions carefully. (1 page)
2. FACT SHEET FOR ROTARY CLUBS: This is a general overview of the RYLA conference.
3. NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT SELECTION: Notify the District RYLA Committee of whom your selected students are for RYLA 2024 by completing the following Google Form by **May 1st**: <https://forms.gle/DhkD11eLpYkXMvqF9>. Any submissions after May 1st, 2024 will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**MATERIALS FOR THE STUDENT:**

4. RYLA APPLICATION: This is to be distributed to all potential candidates (should you wish to convert this application into a digital format, please feel free to do so). Please ensure that each student who indicates interest in attending the conference receives his/her own copy. Please be sure to fill in your contact information on Page 1 prior to application distribution. Pages 1-3 should be retained by the student's family. Page 4 should be returned to you with the required attachments. Note: The student must complete the application before he or she is accepted to attend RYLA. (4 pages)

## **PROCEDURES FOR RYLA CANDIDATE SELECTION AND REGISTRATION (1 of 1)**

### **COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION/DECISIONS:**

- Recruit a committee of 2-3 people from your club
- Establish a plan for promoting RYLA in your community
- Establish a plan for interviewing, selecting, and registering students
- Determine how many students your club will sponsor at \$500 per student (5 students max - please do not mail sponsorship fees for waitlisted students unless they are formally accepted)
- Prepare a timeline to submit a list of selected student names and emails submission to the District RYLA Committee by **May 1st, 2024**

### **TIMELINE:**

- Set date for students to return applications to your club
- Distribute “RYLA Application” (4 Pages)
- Collect completed applications (“RYLA Application Page 4” with “Required Attachments”)
- Review applications prior to conducting interviews
- Set interview schedule, determine each member’s interviewing role, conduct interviews
- Select students to sponsor. Notify students that they have been selected to attend RYLA 2024
- Ensure selected students complete RYLA 2024 Registration Google Form (they will submit directly to the RYLA District Committee), which they will receive after clubs submit their selected students form.
- Mail one sponsorship check (covering only selected students) to Sarah Valdes (address and instructions on the Fact Sheet below) postmarked no later than **May 1st, 2024**. Sponsorship checks must be made payable to Rotary District 7210 for \$500/student.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- Ensure that your club information is written on all student materials.
- Keep on schedule! Ensure students submit their applications by the date requested.
- Retrieve and examine applications and attachments prior to interviews to ensure a strong interview process and on-time mailing to the District RYLA Committee.
- Inform students if they have been selected to attend RYLA 2024 and explain that the district RYLA committee will reach out with more information/additional forms.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- We encourage you to connect with RYLA Recruitment Director Sarah Valdes for support as you promote RYLA in your local area.
- Make this opportunity available to many students by working with the sophomore class officers, a guidance counselor, or the principal of your local high school.
- Do NOT accept candidates who will not be able to attend the entire conference.
- Select an interview site where your candidates will feel at ease.
- Give students information about what your Rotary Club does.
- Prepare open-ended interview questions that stimulate thought/conversation, as well as refer to points made in the student’s application.

**FACT SHEET FOR ROTARY CLUBS (1 of 1)**

**Selected student names due to District RYLA Committee:** May 1st, 2024

**Conference Dates:** Sunday, July 7 - Thursday, July 11, 2024

**Location:** Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY

**Participant Arrival Time:** Sunday, July 7 -- 2:30PM - 3:15PM

**Departure Time:** Thursday, July 11 – Approximately 5PM

**Cost to Rotary Club: \$500 per student** (non-refundable after May 1<sup>st</sup>)

**RYLA Participant Qualifications:**

- Entering 11th grade in September 2024
- Good academic record
- Demonstrated leadership potential/qualities
- Correctly submits a completed application, with all requested attachments
- If selected, will attend the entire conference

**Sponsoring Rotary Club responsibilities (START NOW):**

- Qualify students according to district criteria (above)
- Ensure timely submission of student contact information (<https://forms.gle/DhkD11eLpYkXMvqF9>) and sponsorship fees to Sarah Valdes ((check by mail:address and instructions below)
- Ensure reliable round-trip transportation to the conference for all sponsored students

**Ways Rotarians can help:**

- Submit RYLA stories to local media for coverage. Toot your own horn!
- Provide a post-Conference opportunity for your student(s) to share their experience at a meeting of your club

If you have questions, please contact RYLA Recruitment Director Sarah Valdes and Executive Director Amber Krisch, via email at [RYLA7210@gmail.com](mailto:RYLA7210@gmail.com)

**Mail one sponsorship fee check (made payable to “Rotary District 7210” for \$500/student) postmarked by May 1st, 2024 to:**

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, C/O Sarah Valdes, 33 Pouting Rock Road Mahopac NY 10541

**RYLA APPLICATION (1 of 4)**

**RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Conference**

Sponsored by Rotary District 7210: "The Heart of the Hudson Valley"  
(Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, & Ulster Counties)

**Sunday, July 7, 2024 – Thursday, July 11, 2024**  
Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY

**\*\*FOR SOPHOMORE STUDENTS ONLY\*\***

\_\_\_\_\_ invites you to apply to become a scholarship  
(Name of sponsoring club)

participant in this year's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Conference.

**Sponsoring Club's Contact Information:**

Rotarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your completed application, with all requested attachments, to your Rotarian  
contact (above) no later than:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(RYLA Application Due Date)

Your completed RYLA application must include...

- RYLA Application - Page 4 of 4
- Personal Statement (See "Required Attachments")
- 2 Letters of Recommendation (See "Required Attachments")
- High School Transcript, to date (See "Required Attachments")

**RYLA APPLICATION (2 of 4)**

**WHAT IS THE ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS CONFERENCE?**

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference is a program for high school sophomores who have shown leadership potential in their home, school, and community. The conference is designed to introduce participants to thoughts and ideas that will strengthen and develop their leadership skills. At RYLA, conferees are encouraged to share their personal experiences and perspectives in powerful conversations about various topics, providing insightful learning opportunities. It also provides an environment where participants feel comfortable discussing their thoughts and ideas with other students from the Mid-Hudson Valley. The conference lasts five days and is held on the campus of Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY.

**THE PROGRAM INCLUDES...**

Personal assessment	Goal setting	Delegating	Time management
Communication and listening	Public speaking	Problem solving	Team building
Compromising	Setting priorities	Interpersonal relationships	Brainstorming

**RYLA ACTIVITIES**

Group Projects: Each student will be a member of a group during the conference. Each group works on a project that provides hands-on experience with planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Small Group Activities: Discussion-based activities are held to share and explore notions of leadership.

Social Time: There is space in the program for organized athletic activities, dancing, and developing friendships with other participants.

**IN ORDER TO ATTEND RYLA, THE APPLICANT MUST...**

1. Be a sophomore ready to enter their junior year in the fall
2. Have shown demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community
3. Demonstrate the qualities of a good student
4. Submit a completed application
5. Be selected and sponsored by your local Rotary Club

**RYLA APPLICATION (Page 3 of 4)**

**COVID-19 ADDENDUM (UPDATED 1/2024)**

At the time of the release of this application, the District RYLA Committee is planning to host an in-person RYLA 2024 Conference. While we are optimistic, please note that our planning will be consistent with current health and safety regulations; in other words, should it be deemed unsafe for the conference to proceed as planned, we will alter our plans accordingly.

Should it be deemed unsafe to host an overnight, in-person conference come the beginning of July, our committee is prepared to host a modified in-person conference. Rotary clubs and selected conference attendees alike will be kept updated regarding any changes to the conference format. Information will be disseminated via your student email address, should you be selected to attend RYLA 2024.

**Currently, it is not required that participants be vaccinated or boosted against COVID-19 for the RYLA 2024 conference.** This decision is aligned with current state and local guidelines and the Mount Saint Mary College COVID-19 policy, found [here](#). In order to protect the health of our staff and conferees, vaccines and boosters are *strongly recommended* as a precaution. We also encourage participants to test before attending and participants may mask at their discretion, though neither will be required.

Should any attendees begin to exhibit signs of COVID-19 during the conference, they will be required to leave the conference and may return with proof of a negative COVID-19 test with no prevailing symptoms. The need for additional students to leave the RYLA conference based upon exposure will be made at the discretion of the RYLA Committee on an as-needed basis.

**RYLA APPLICATION (Page 4 of 4)**  
Rotary Club Information

<b>Sponsoring Rotary Club:</b>	
<b>Rotarian Contact</b>	
<b>Home contact phone #:</b>	
<b>Work contact phone #:</b>	

Student Last Name, First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address (Note: Please use a NON-school affiliated email address):  
\_\_\_\_\_

This student, \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to apply to and be a participant in this conference. I understand that acceptance to be a participant in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference obligates the student to attend the entire conference. I also understand that participation may be terminated for inappropriate behavior, violation of conference rules and regulations, or for possession of an unpermitted property.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Home phone number of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Cell phone number of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Work phone number of parent/guardian)

**REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

1. Briefly describe your (1) participation and (2) leadership experiences in your extracurricular activities, service, and employment, as well as the reasons why you are interested in attending this conference.
2. Submit **one** letter of recommendation from a teacher, administrator, or community leader who can comment on your accomplishments and/or potential.
3. Submit a copy of your school transcript indicating your coursework and grades for freshman and sophomore year, to date.



### **Your Next Steps...**

Once you've submitted your application, if you are selected the registration timeline is as follows:

- You will receive an email from [ryla7210@gmail.com](mailto:ryla7210@gmail.com) about your selection and required registration materials. Please complete these materials by their deadlines, or you may lose your seat at RYLA 2024:
  - ◆ The completion of a Health Form (this form must be signed by your health provider, which can include your school nurse. An updated physical within 1 year of the conference may be used in lieu of the Health Form). **[Due 6/15/2024]**
  - ◆ The completion of the Registration Form where you will provide your group preference and parent/guardian permission. **[Due 6/1/2024]**
- A couple weeks after you complete the Registration Form, you will receive a call from your Junior Counselor who will outline what to expect at the conference, as well as items to bring and the details of your group. Your Junior Counselor may answer any questions you and your parents/guardians have and will remain in contact with you leading up to the conference.