

Rotary District 7210: RYLA 2023

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 **\$495 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 2023 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.

Please follow the procedures outlined in the enclosed material.

If you have questions, please contact RYLA Recruitment Coordinators, Amber Krisch and Sarah Valdes, via email at 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 by **May 15th, 2023** to the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/DhkD11eLpYkXMvqF9>.

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 2022 by completing the following Google Form by **May 15, 2023**: <https://forms.gle/DhkD11eLpYkXMvqF9>. Any submissions after May 15, 2023 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 \$495 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 15, 2023**

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 2023
- Ensure selected students complete RYLA 2023 Registration Google Form – Will be submitted directly to the RYLA District Committee (**which will be released by May 15, 2023**)
- Mail one sponsorship check (covering only selected students) to Joshua Jordan postmarked no later than **May 15, 2023**. Sponsorship checks must be made payable to Rotary District 7210 for \$495/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 2023 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 Coordinators Amber Krisch and 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 15, 2023

Conference Dates: Sunday, June 25 - Thursday, June 29, 2023

Location: Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY

Participant Arrival Time: Sunday, June 25 -- 2:30PM - 3:15PM

Departure Time: Thursday, June 29 – Approximately 5PM

Cost to Rotary Club: \$495 per student (non-refundable after May 31st)

RYLA Participant Qualifications:

- Entering 11th grade in September 2023
- EITHER fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (or intending to be fully vaccinated by June 11th, 2023) OR willing to submit a COVID-19 test showing a negative result taken within 72 hours of the start of RYLA 2023 (on or after June 22nd, 2023)
- 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 names (<https://forms.gle/DhkD11eLpYkXMvgF9>) and sponsorship fees to Joshua Jordan (check by mail)
- 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 Coordinators, Amber Krisch and Sarah Valdes, via email at RYLA7210@gmail.com

Mail one sponsorship fee check (made payable to “Rotary District 7210” for \$495/student) postmarked by May 15, 2023 to:

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, C/O Joshua Jordan, 23 Lorraine Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

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, June 25, 2023 – Thursday, June 29, 2023
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 3/2023)

At the time of the release of this application, the District RYLA Committee is planning to host an in-person RYLA 2023 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 end of June, 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 2023.

Please be aware that **all participants must be EITHER: fully vaccinated against COVID-19** at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the RYLA Conference (on or before June 11, 2023); **OR willing to submit a COVID-19 test** showing a negative result taken within 72 hours of the start of RYLA 2023 (on or after June 22, 2023). Please note that **booster vaccinations are not required, but strongly encouraged**. Failure to provide proof of full vaccination or a negative test result may lead to losing your seat at RYLA 2023.

Likewise, be assured that several additional precautions will be implemented into our program to ensure the safety of all involved. These precautions may include but are not limited to:

- Pre-conference COVID-19 testing for all participants, regardless of vaccination status
- Mandatory mask-wearing while indoors
- Social distancing of at least six feet when possible
- Daily temperature checks & health screening via questionnaire

By accepting a seat to attend this conference, please ensure you would be comfortable attending in either of the two modes listed below:

- Option A: Overnight, In-Person RYLA Conference
- Option B: Modified, In-Person RYLA Conference

If the RYLA 2023 Conference is held in-person, should any attendee begin to exhibit any signs of COVID-19 between June 25th and June 29th, they will be required to leave the conference and will not be invited to return, for the safety of all involved. 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

Sponsoring Rotary Club:	
Rotarian Contact	
Home contact phone #:	
Work contact phone #:	

Student Last Name, First Name: _____

Name of High School: _____

Home Address: _____

Student Cell Phone #: _____

Student 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 two letters of recommendation from teachers, administrators, or community leaders 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.