



Rotary Youth Leadership Award

**Rotary Districts
7470 - 7510**

Participant Handbook

Location/Dates

Drew University – Madison, NJ

June 16 – 18, 2017

What is RYLA?

"RYLA" stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Award, a program sponsored by your local Rotary Club for students entering their senior year of high school in the September following the conference. Rotary sponsors the RYLA program each year to give back to the communities that have given it so much.

RYLA encourages Servant Leadership in youth by recognizing and rewarding deserving 11th grade students who are chosen to attend RYLA as an "award" for their past and present leadership and service activities. You will join other talented young people selected by the over 100 Rotary Clubs of Districts 7510 and 7470, in Central and Northern New Jersey respectively.

The cost of the conference is \$275.00 and is paid for by sponsoring Rotary Clubs. Students who participate in the all-expense paid conference will engage with a diverse group of exceptional speakers, make life-long friends through fellowship activities, and discuss the ethical and social issues of today.



The Objectives of RYLA

- To demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth.
- To publicly recognize and nurture the high qualities of the many young people who are rendering service to their communities as youth leaders.
- To stimulate and cultivate leadership potential in youth.
- To provide meaningful leadership training experience for youth, through programs such as physical & mental challenges, discussions, and guest speakers.
- To give back to the communities that have given so much to Rotary, by providing training for an elite group of tomorrow's leaders.

Don't know what Rotary is? Check it out in the following pages...

RYLA Conference - "What are we doing?"

The RYLA Conference of District 7470 has been ongoing since 1990, and has evolved with the times. A customized leadership development program has been designed to meet the needs of this years' participants so that you may reach your Leadership potential.

You will be attending daily workshops that will be assessing your group and individual task readiness, and you will be exposed to implementation of different leadership styles, all via interactive and fun programming. The skills you acquire during the conference will have direct application in your schools, communities, and life situations.

The time will be highly structured with programs such as group and team challenge activities, group discussions, and engaging guest speakers. Perhaps the greatest benefit will come from sharing this experience with 90 other outstanding young men and women selected from high schools throughout central and northern New Jersey. Lasting friendships often develop from the people you encounter during RYLA.

RYLA is weekend of fun, learning, and discovery and culminates with a recognition ceremony. RYLA is a lifetime experience not to be forgotten.



Why were you chosen to participate in RYLA?

You have been chosen for any number of reasons. . .

- You have shown leadership skills/abilities.
- You are an active and involved student.
- Your extracurricular activities are noteworthy.
- Your activities are well balanced.
- You are able to communicate effectively.
- Adults find you to be exemplary.
- You are a doer, not an observer.

Achieving Your Goals

This conference has been designed to be an intensive, intellectually challenging session to enhance your leadership skills and to stimulate your thinking about yourself, your life, and your world. In order for you and your peers to gain the most from this experience, please keep in mind that all Conferees must:

- Be willing to follow rules and take direction.
- Attend all scheduled sessions.
- Work with peers in small and large group settings.

Remember, for every right you have as a Conference participant, you have an equal responsibility to your sponsoring Rotary Club, to RYLA, and to other participants.

General Information

Transportation

You are responsible for your own transportation to/from the conference. The conference will be held at Drew University beginning on Friday, June 16, 2017, 4:30 PM and ends Sunday, June 18, 2017 at 11:30 am.

Participants may NOT bring cars.

Housing

You will be rooming with other participants in a dormitory. Room assignments are random, room requests to stay with a specific person are not accepted. Part of the program is learning to meet and relate to new individuals. Beds are provided; however, you need to bring a sleeping bag or bed linens/comforter, pillow and bath towels. Changing your room assignment is prohibited.

Meals

Three meals per day will be served on site. There are vegetarian and gluten-free options available daily. If you have specific food needs, please address them in your application or contact the RYLA registrar Barry Kroll at barrykroll@aol.com

Supervision

Experienced adult leaders are selected as resident staff at the Conference as well as adult volunteers. Rotarians also serve as chaperones during the conference. While Participants are treated as responsible young men and women, adherence to basic rules is expected.

Speakers

You will be addressed by a variety of professional adults during the Conference, including Rotarians with demonstrated business and leadership qualities. Other activities are facilitated by experienced leaders having professional, teaching, and/or leadership experience.

Rules & Regulations – “Words To Live By”

- Alcohol and drugs are prohibited.
- Personal vehicles are prohibited.
- Leaving the Conference is prohibited.
- Smoking is prohibited.
- Conferees are expected to remain in their assigned rooms after curfew
- Curfew will be enforced.
- Out of respect for our RYLA speakers and the program itself, we require that all cell phones be placed in "airplane mode" during all activities and on mute/vibrate during down time.
- There Are No Exceptions To The Rules

Failure to adhere to the standards set forth by the RYLA Committee will result in immediate expulsion from the Conference. Participants' parent(s) or guardian(s) will be called and are expected to respond immediately. *Respect the rules and you will have a great time.*

Departure

The Conference ends at approximately 11:30 am on Sunday morning June 18, 2017, after the closing ceremony participants are expected to be packed to leave with either their parents or other designated driver

Have more questions about RYLA?

Contact RYLA Registrar

Barry Kroll at

barrykroll@aol.com or 973-476-2772



So.....What Is Rotary?

Rotary Is. . .

Rotary is a service organization of business and professional people united worldwide who conduct humanitarian projects, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and work toward world understanding and peace.

Rotary is approximately 1.2 million service-minded people belonging to over 34,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 180 countries. Membership is by invitation.

Rotary clubs meet weekly, both to eat and enjoy each other's fellowship, and discuss how they can serve others.

Rotary is compassion for the underprivileged, the underfed and the disabled, many of whom are the beneficiaries of 25,000 service projects conducted by Rotary Clubs in the world each year.

Rotary adds fulfillment to the lives of more than 7,000 young people each year of secondary school age as they study in a country other than their own.

The Rotary Foundation contributes more than 20 million U.S. dollars annually toward various programs to promote international understanding.

Rotary sponsors Interact, more than 13,000 service clubs for young people of secondary school age in some 80 countries.

Rotary sponsors Rotaract, more than 8,800 clubs for young adults between 18 and 28 years old in almost 100 countries.



Rotary began in 1905 in Chicago. The international headquarters is in Evanston, Illinois, and there are branch offices in several countries on four continents.

Rotary for the last ten years has been growing at the extraordinary rate of a new club every 18.5 hours.

Rotary's Partnership With Youth

Every Rotarian is an Example to Youth

Rotary Clubs throughout the world enter into partnership with youth in many ways to implement the Object of Rotary.

Rotary's youth activities include: the Rotary Foundation, Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, Student Exchange, Sponsorship of young people in the various youth services outside Rotary, and support of other Community Youth Activities.

The Rotary Foundation

Supported by the member Rotary Clubs of Rotary International, the Rotary Foundation aims to advance the Fourth Avenue of Rotary Service: International understanding, good will and peace.

The Rotary Foundation awards scholarships annually to outstanding young men and women to study in an overseas country for a year. A scholarship covers round-trip transportation; education, living and miscellaneous expenses, and is available in the following categories:

- Graduate Scholarships
- Undergraduate Scholarships
- Vocational Scholarships
- Teacher of the Disabled Scholarships
- Journalism Scholarships

Rotary's Avenues of Service

- Community Service
- Vocational Service
- Guidance Service
- International Service
- New Generations Service *

Rotary's Four-Way Test

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings:

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The Object Of Rotary

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to service society;

Third: The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business, and community life;

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professionals united in the ideal of service.

- The New Generations Service recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults through leadership development activities as RYLA, Rotaract and Interact, service projects, and creating international understanding with Rotary Youth Exchange.
- All Rotary volunteers at the conference have undergone criminal background checks and have been vetted in sexual abuse and harassment training.

For information about how to become involved with Rotary contact

Barry Kroll

barrykroll@aol.com

973-476-2772