

**Rotary  
District 7490**



Candidate Information Handbook

## 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 50 Rotary Clubs of District 7490, in Northern New Jersey comprising Passaic, Hudson and Bergen counties. This is an all-expenses-paid conference where you 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....*

# RYLEA Conference - "What are we doing?"

The RYLEA Conference of District 7490 has been ongoing since 1986, 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 Rotary District 7490. Lasting friendships often develop from the people you encounter during RYLEA.

A week of fun, learning, and discovery will culminate with a recognition ceremony. RYLEA is a lifetime experience not to be forgotten.

## Why Was I Chosen?

**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 the conference. Your sponsoring Rotary Club may provide transportation to and from the conference (ask your sponsoring club for details of any such service offered). Participants may NOT bring cars.

### **Housing**

You will be rooming with other Participants in a dormitory. Beds are provided; however, you need to bring a sleeping bag or bed sheets/comforter, pillow and bath towels. Changing your room assignment is prohibited.

### **Meals**

Three meals per day will be served in the on-site cafeteria. There are vegetarian and gluten-free options available daily. If you have specific food needs, please address them in your application.

### **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 everywhere.
- 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 8:00 pm, after the Closing Ceremony. Participants are expected to be packed to leave with either their parents or a Rotarian from the Club, immediately after the Closing Ceremony.

**Have more questions about RYLA?**

Contact RYLA Co-Chair, Amani Mohsen at  
[amani.mohsen@RYLA7490.org](mailto:amani.mohsen@RYLA7490.org)



## 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 meets 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.