



## District 7890 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Program Overview

### To: Club Presidents and Club RYLA/Youth Coordinators

We are excited to continue one of District 7890's most successful and rewarding annual programs: **RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)**. We encourage all Rotary clubs to actively participate in selecting local high school sophomores who exhibit strong leadership potential.

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### Program Objectives

The RYLA Program provides young individuals with an exceptional leadership development experience, emphasizing:

1. **Respect and Support for Youth:** Demonstrating Rotary's commitment to young leaders.
2. **Leadership Training:** Encouraging and assisting young adults in effective leadership methods.
3. **Recognition of Youth Leaders:** Publicly acknowledging the contributions of young leaders within the community.

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### Day at RYLA Leadership Camp

The day begins with registration and a briefing on the day's events. Students are divided into small groups for leadership activities, with instructors and the RYLA Committee evaluating leadership qualities throughout the day. Activities include:

- A motivational speaker session
- A Rotary roundtable
- Seminars focusing on teamwork and group efforts

**Leadership Selection Process:** Students select peers who demonstrated exceptional leadership. Chosen individuals may attend the World Affairs Seminar at Carroll University, Wisconsin, the following June, with the RYLA program covering transportation, meals, and admission.

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### Club Action Plan

1. **Appoint a RYLA/Youth Coordinator:** Select a club member, preferably someone familiar with high school administrators or guidance counselors, to lead the program.
2. **Promote RYLA at Your Club:** Organize a presentation about RYLA. Propose to the club the number of students to sponsor.
3. **Inform Local High Schools:** Share information about RYLA with your local high schools and distribute applications and liability forms.

#### 4. Application Process:

- i. Duplicate the enclosed RYLA application and Springfield College Release of Liability form.
- ii. Distribute copies to selected students or ensure the school provides them to interested students.
- iii. Arrange a time to collect the completed forms.
- iv. Verify that an officer of your club signs all printed applications before submission.
- v. Return the applications, liability forms, and payment to the District RYLA Registrar.

#### 5. Post-Event Follow-Up:

- Invite students back to share their RYLA experiences. Their enthusiasm will inspire your club members!
- Submit an article about RYLA to your local news media.

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## Event Details

- **Date:** May 31, 2025, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Springfield College East Campus, Springfield, MA
- **Eligible Participants:** High School Sophomores
- **Cost:** \$200.00 per student
- **Application Deadline: May 10, 2025 (No Exceptions)**

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## Additional Information

Upon receipt of each student's application, the RYLA Registrar will send detailed instructions, confirmation, itinerary, and other pertinent information to all parties.

For questions, please contact any District RYLA Committee member:

- Charlie Copeland: 860-778-6473
- Ann Marie Ottoson: 413-530-5996
- Adele Hill: 413-427-4956
- Pam Lupoli: 860-688-6846
- Vinnie Marinaro: 413-882-1647
- Bruce Posocco: 860-944-8902
- Karen O'Neill: 774-696-8531
- Laura Lybarger: 860-849-0655 or [staffordrotaryct@gmail.com](mailto:staffordrotaryct@gmail.com)

### Registrar Contact

PDG Larry N. Ottoson 25 Lenox Circle E, Longmeadow, MA 01028  
(413) 525-7116

Thank you for your commitment to fostering leadership among young adults. Together, we can continue to make District 7890's RYLA program a remarkable success.