



July 18, 2025

Dear Club President:

THE 2025 ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD (RYLA) CONFERENCE IS ONCE AGAIN READY TO GO AND WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!!

WOW.... If your club doesn't get involved with RYLA this year.....you will miss an opportunity to really see Rotary Youth in action. The 2026 RYLA Conference will be held over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend (Friday, January 16 – Monday noon, January 19, 2026) at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas and I can't tell you how excited we are about the program we have planned this 2026 event. An entirely new program has been designed and I can promise your students a tremendous and memorable leadership experience. For those clubs and Presidents just getting involved, RYLA is one of the oldest and longest standing youth programs in our Rotary world and it is District 5840's way of recognizing our outstanding youth. More than 160 junior class students will attend this weekend and be led by 30 or more returning senior peer Team Leaders who actually help to plan and execute the event. . Along with at least three major, hands-on leadership workshops there will be some new programs and surprises that I know the students will enjoy and get a lot out of. As always, there will be plenty of food, snacks, entertainment and just plain fun over the weekend.

The RYLA concept is quite simple but very effective. Outstanding local Leaders make presentations and conduct "Hands On" and interactive sessions on leadership, trust, cooperation, communication skills and teamwork and other meaningful and topical subjects. After each session, the students meet in their small groups or teams to discuss the topics and their views and share with the others in their group and the students have some pretty lively debates and discussions. The response is GREAT... the students find it informative and enjoyable and Rotary is the forum to get our message out about leadership and service. Hopefully, this brief description will suffice to get your candidates as excited to come as we are to offer the program.

At this point, I hope you will move swiftly toward selecting at least two (more if you want) outstanding JUNIOR (only) students from the high schools in your club area (preferably one boy and one girl).

DATE: JANUARY 16 - 19, 2026
PLACE: THE JOHN NEWCOMB TENNIS CAMP
DEADLINE: DECEMBER 18, 2025 (however.....)
COST: \$ 200.00 PER STUDENT

Like last year, the workshop is being held over the Martin Luther King holiday, and will be over three nights (Fri. evening through Mon noon). Additional details of arrival time, map etc. are included within this packet.

This is what we need for you to do:

1. **DON'T SIT ON THIS LETTER.....ACT ON IT YOURSELF OR IMMEDIATELY TURN IT OVER TO YOUR YOUTH CHAIRMAN OR BETTER STILL APPOINT A RYLA CHAIRMANFOLLOW UP ON EVERY STEP. PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!**
2. Select the students - How? Ask your high school counselor or Interact Sponsor (if you have an interact club) to recommend two (2) or more, outstanding students from the junior class. Be sure and tell them that they may use this program as that little extra boost or push for that potential outstanding leader who don't always get the recognition.
2. Rotary foreign exchange students are always welcome . They add so much to the RYLA experience and they tend to remember RYLA as one of the best experiences of their Exchange year.
3. Be sure your counselor and students know that the conference is over three (3) nights and once registered they will have to remain for the duration. No student will be permitted to arrive after the announced registration time nor will they be permitted to leave early..... please no exceptions. If selected students have basketball, SAT etc. please select other participants. Rest assured, as always, the students are totally cared for and under the constant supervision of adult and peer chaperones, day and night.
4. Get the names and addresses of the students to me as soon as possible:

Ron Greenberg: PO Box 6628, San Antonio, Texas 78209
phone: (210) 410-2761 email : ron@rgenviro.com or rgenviro@reagan.com

Send your check, made out to RYLA District 5840, for \$200 for each student that you plan to send and mail to: District Treasurer Mr. Bill Patton at 1150 N Loop 1604 W, Suite 108 -110 San Antonio, Texas 78248

I AM ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS and if you wish to phone in your names, it is extremely important to send me a verification letter/email so that I can get proper spelling of names, addresses etc.

5. The students will be free to leave Newcomb's around 12:00 noon on Monday, January 20, 2020
6. Also attached is a letter that you can give to the student and/or parent. So that you have the same details as they do. For those of you that wish to send more than two students, feel free to do so, but let me know so that I can make reservations....call or email me and we will work out details but please know that an early response is your best guarantee that you will be able to send the desired number of students.
7. **DON'T FORGET !!! DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS DECEMBER 18, 2024 (longer if necessary and you contact me ahead of time). PLEASE ACT ON THIS AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER !!**

Please call me if you have questions or comments about the program, deadlines, or costs. IT IS GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR AND A GREAT RYLA CONFERENCE AND AS ALWAYS, WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS !!!!

Ron Greenberg Work/Cell phone: (210) 410-2761
P O Box 6628 San Antonio, Texas 78209
E-mail: ron@rgenviro.com

- or rgenviro@reagan.com

PLEASE SEND ALL NAMES TO ME and all checks to: Mr Bill Patton (address above).

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (RYLA)

Dear RYLA Nominee.....CONGRATULATIONS on being chosen by your school and the Rotary Clubs of District 5840 to participate in the 2026 Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA). This is truly a unique and exciting Leadership conference/workshop and we hope that you will realize and appreciate the honor in having been selected to attend. Below are the Who, What, Where, etc. for this fantastic weekend.

WHAT IS RYLA ?

RYLA stands for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and the purpose is to give you (and 160+ other students from around Texas) an opportunity to learn and to exchange ideas on leadership techniques and topical issues with outstanding community and student leaders. The entire weekend is an interactive weekend with every session building on the previous one. After a presentation by one of our powerful facilitators, student Team Leaders (TL's) will moderate small group dialogues and I know that you will find these discussions interesting, thought provoking, entertaining and exciting. One session that I know that you will enjoy and learn from, is an entire workshop, with hands on participation, on effective leadership in high school. This workshop is conducted by one of San Antonio's most enthusiastic past educators and speakers and we are confident you will come away with some new ideas and insight into being a more dynamic and effective leader both in and out of your school. I know you will enjoy the other hands on and interactive workshops on the program as well as a challenging low ropes course. Don't worry.....there is plenty of game and fun time over the weekend.

WHEN ?

RYLA takes place over the Martin Luter King holliday weekend...F riday January 16- NOON on Monday January 19, 2026 and **you should plan to arrive at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch Lodge (directions attached) between 6:00 and 7:00 PM on Friday night, January 16** and don't worry about eating before hand, a dinner buffet (including vegetarian dishes) along with dips and fruit will be set up during registration.

We understand that many of you are very involved in many other activities (basketball, soccer, SAT etc.) or may have schedule conflicts however, once you agree to attend and arrive at Newk's, you will not be permitted to leave until the conference is over (**ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS** except for illness). As you can see, the conference is over four days due to the Martin Luther King school holiday (for most districts), so please take note and make your plans accordingly. Additionally, because of the camp setting, no one will be permitted late registration. If you must decline call tell your school counselor so that substitutions can be made or call me and I'll take care of it.

WHERE ?

RYLA takes place at the JOHN NEWCOMBE TENNIS RANCH, in New Braunfels. The entrance to the Ranch is on Highway 46 at Mission Valley Rd.. Look for the RYLA directional signs and follow the RYLA signs to the Main Lodge and RYLA Team Leaders will be available to help you find your cabin and help with your luggage. If you are driving your own car, you will be shown where to park and you will not be permitted to drive until you leave at the end of the weekend. The conference will conclude around 12:00 PM (parents, no earlier.....please) on Monday, January 20, 2025. Parents or other drivers, you will pick your student(s) up at the same location where you drop them off. Emergency (only) phone numbers follow should it be necessary to get a message to your student: **Newk's - (830) 625-9105 or Ron Greenberg - (210) 410-2761 (24 hour mobile)**. The entire weekend is totally chaperoned, night and day, by a number of Rotarians and other adult leaders as well as the John Newcombe Staff (Mom and Dad take note).

WHAT TO BRING

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ AND TAKE NOTE - You will be in a camp setting in bunk bed style cabins (comfortable-not rustic). Newk's has the beds however, **YOU are responsible for your own linens or sleeping bag, blanket (maybe two of them), quilt, towels, soap etc..** Dress throughout the entire weekend is casual and comfortable (jeans to dressy) and remember the weather can change at any time **SO BRING A COAT, SWEATER, RAINCOAT ETC.** Many of the conference activities are scheduled outdoors (ropes course, games, etc.) so **bring sneakers (maybe even an extra pair), warmups and/or “climbing clothes” (those that can get dirty etc.)**. Be sure to bring your alarm clock (Mom or Dad won't be there to gently shake you awake).

OTHER STUFF

There will be an informal get aquatinted party on Friday evening after registration, a games/social event on Saturday night (the RYLA Olympics) and something special on Sunday night. Our schedule is extremely busy, however, throughout the weekend you will have periods of free time to just relax and get to know the other students and enjoy the facility.

Non denominational religious services (optional) and Catholic Mass will be held Sunday morning at Newk's.

UP FRONT RULES (other rules will be given to you later)

This entire conference and weekend is a **smoke free weekend**. Tobacco products of any kind (cigarettes, vape pens, Scoal etc.) are prohibited as well as Energy Drinks (TL's rules) so please take note.

OUR GUARANTEE

If you come with an open mind and are prepared to fully participate (the willingness to “step out of your comfort zone”), we guarantee that you are going to have an absolutely amazing, tremendous, worthwhile and fun weekend and we really are excited about having you!!!

QUESTIONS ?

If you or your parents or school counselor has questions, I can be reached at the following:

Ron Greenberg
Conference Chairman
PO Box 6628

Home Phone (210) 824-0396
Work/Cell Phone (210) 410-2761
San Antonio, Texas 78209

E-Mail: ron@rgenviro.com or rgenviro@reagan.com

Direction to the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch

From Austin/Dallas

Hwy 35 south to New Braunfels (approximately 45 miles south of Austin)

Exit # 189 (Seguin/New Braunfels)

Turn right at stop light-you will then be going west on loop 337

Go 5 miles on loop 337 until you the come to the Hwy 46 exit – take that exit and turn left at stop light

Go about 3 miles on Hwy 46 and you will see a big water tower on your left that says, “Newks Resort”

Turn left at the water tower (Mission Valley Road) and go about ¼ mile

The main entrance will be on your left. The Main Lodge is by the parking lot

From Houston

Hwy 10 west to Seguin

Take the New Braunfels exit and go west on Hwy 46. Stay on it about 15 miles to New Braunfels

When you go under Hwy 35 in New Braunfels, Hwy 46 turns into loop 337 (McDonald’s on the right)

Go 5 miles on loop 337 until you the come to the Hwy 46 exit – take that exit and turn right at stop light

Go about 3 miles on Hwy 46 and you will see a big water tower on your left that says, “Newks Resort”

Turn left at the water tower (Mission Valley Road) and go about ¼ mile

The main entrance will be on your left. The Main Lodge is by the parking lot

From San Antonio

Hwy 35 North to New Braunfels

Take the Rueckle Road Exit #184-turn left at the stop sign and pass over Hwy 35

You will be on loop 337, Go 5 miles on loop 337 until you the come to the Hwy 46 exit – take that exit and turn left at stop light

Go about 3 miles on Hwy 46 and you will see a big water tower on your left that says, “Newks Resort”

Turn left at the water tower (Mission Valley Road) and go about ¼ mile

The main entrance will be on your left. The Main Lodge is by the parking lot

From Boerne/ West Texas

Hwy 10 East to Hwy 46 Exit

Go east on Hwy 46 towards New Braunfels

We are 15 Miles east of Hwy 281

You will see a big water tower on your right that says, “Newks Resort”

Turn right at the water tower (Mission Valley Road) and go about ¼ mile

The main entrance will be on your left. The Main Lodge is by the parking lot

LOOK FOR THE YELLOW AND BLUE “RYLA” SIGNS

If you have question on these directions, please call NEWKS at (830) 625-9105

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

“I give permission to my **(circle)** son / daughter **(please clearly print student’s name):** _____

_____ to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference (RYLA), being held from January 16-19, 2026 inclusive, at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch, New Braunfels, Texas. In the event of a medical emergency and in the event that I/we cannot be reached, I give my approval and authorization for my son/daughter to be treated at the closest medical facility in New Braunfels and understand that I will be pecuniarily liable for all medical care rendered.

In consideration of my son/daughter being allowed to participate in the above activity, I hereby agree as follows:

- 1) To forever release and discharge the Rotary Clubs and the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch, its agencies, agents, and authorized personnel as hereinafter defined, from liability arising out of, or in connection with my son’s or daughter’s participation in the above references activity, or in going to or departing from, or being upon John Newcombe Tennis Ranch property.
- 2) For the purposes of this agreement, the term “authorized personnel” shall include a) Rotary Voluntary Personnel and/or b) John Newcombe Tennis Ranch personnel.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

STUDENT CONTRACT

In accepting this invitation to attend the RYLA Conference, I agree and understand that I will not be able to leave the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch for any reason (other than sickness or emergency) during this period and that I have no scheduling conflicts that would require me to do so. In so accepting, I agree to arrive within the scheduled time on Friday, January 16, will stay for the duration of the conference and will attend and participate in all functions.

Student signature with parent acknowledgment

Date

Please sign the Contract and have parent sign the Release on appropriate signature line and bring this form with you to the conference.....someone will collect it on your arrival (or mail it to me in advance). It is most important that this release form be turned in on or prior to arrival.

Participant Medical History & Liability Release Form - Newcombe Ranch

Name _____ Phone _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____

Male () Female () Height _____ Weight _____

In case of emergency, please notify _____ Phone _____

Do you have any medical or health conditions which you believe could affect your capacity to participate in this program? Yes ___ No ___ If "Yes", please explain on the back of this form.
 List any medications to which you are allergic _____

Please check Yes or No for the following as they apply to you:

I have:	Yes	No	Description:
a physical disability	___	___	_____
had surgery in the last 6 months	___	___	_____
heart or circulatory problem	___	___	_____
problem with seizures	___	___	_____
sight, hearing or speech impairment	___	___	_____
asthma or respiratory problem	___	___	_____
arthritis or problems with joints	___	___	_____
allergies, diabetes or hypoglycemia	___	___	_____
headaches, dizziness, heatstroke	___	___	_____
reactions to bee stings or insects	___	___	_____
high blood pressure	___	___	_____
other:	___	___	_____

Are you pregnant? _____ How many months? _____

I understand that all participation in this program is by choice and that I may exercise the option to not participate in any aspect of this program (physical, cognitive, or emotional) if in my judgement I determine that I may be at risk or unable to participate for any reason. **In the event of an accident or emergency that renders me unable to communicate (or as the parent of a minor who cannot be contacted), I grant my permission for any medical care, operations, and charges which might become necessary.**

Release of Liability – Read before Signing

As with any program associated with the outdoors, there is a risk which must be assumed by each participant in the event that he/she may experience any emotional or physical injury. Knowing the inherent risk and rigors involved in the activities, I certify that I am fully capable of participating in the activities. I voluntarily assume and accept full responsibility for my behavior, and for all risk of injury, illness, death, loss of personal property, and expenses thereof, as a result of my negligence, or other risks, including but not limited to those caused by physical obstacles, the terrain, the weather, my emotional and physical condition, and other participants. I agree to release, discharge and agree to indemnify and hold harmless, The John Newcombe Tennis Ranch, their agents, assistants, employees and any co-sponsors (when applicable) for any damages or injuries, physical or mental which might occur as a result of my voluntary decision to participate in these activities.

I have read this release of liability and assumption of risk agreement, fully understand its terms, and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement.

Participant's Signature _____ Age _____ Date _____

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my child, and our heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above.

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18) _____ Date _____

Insurance: _____ Subscriber # _____ Group # _____

Participant Medical History Form - Newcombe Ranch

Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Male () Female () Height _____ Weight _____ Phone Number _____

In case of emergency, please notify _____ Phone _____

Name of Group _____

Do you have any medical or health conditions which you believe could affect your capacity to participate in this program? Yes _____ No _____ If "Yes", please explain below.

List any medications to which you are allergic _____

Please check Yes or No for the following as they apply to you:

I Have:	Yes	No	Description:
a physical disability	_____	_____	_____
had surgery in the last 6 months	_____	_____	_____
heart or circulatory problem	_____	_____	_____
problem with seizures	_____	_____	_____
sight, hearing or speech impairment	_____	_____	_____
asthma or respiratory problem	_____	_____	_____
arthritis or problems with joints	_____	_____	_____
allergies, diabetes or hypoglycemia	_____	_____	_____
headaches, dizziness, heatstroke	_____	_____	_____
reactions to bee stings or insects	_____	_____	_____
high blood pressure	_____	_____	_____
Other:	_____	_____	_____
are you pregnant?	_____	_____	_____

I understand that all participation in this program is by choice and that I may exercise the option to not participate in any aspect of this program (physical, cognitive, or emotional) if in my judgement I determine that I may be at risk or unable to participate for any reason. **In the event of an accident or emergency that renders me unable to communicate (or as the parent of a minor who cannot be contacted), I grant my permission for any medical care, operations, and charges which might become necessary.**

Participant's Signature _____ Age _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

(If under 18 years old, Parent or Guardian must also sign)

Insurance: _____ Subscriber # _____ Group # _____

(If there is no insurance coverage, this section may be left blank)

(OVER)

