July 1, 2026

Dear Club President:

THE 2027 ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD (RYLA) CONFERENCE IS ONCE AGAIN READY TO GO AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

It is time for your club to get involved with RYLA this year.....so don't miss an opportunity to really see Rotary Youth in action. The 2027 RYLA conference will be held over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend (Friday, January 15 thru Monday, January 18, 2027 at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas and our committee for 2027 is excited about the program we have planned. For those clubs and Presidents just getting involved, RYLA is one of the oldest and longest standiing youth programs in our Rotary world and it is District 5840's way of recognizing our outstanding youth. 2027 will be District 5840's 51st RYLA conference. More than 150 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. 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, teamwork and other meaningful topical subjects. 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 form the high schools in your club area (preferable one boy and one girl),

DATE:	**JANUARY 15-18, 2027**
PLACE:	**THE JOHN NEWCOMBE TENNIS RANCH**
DEADLINE:	**DECEMBER 18, 2026**
COST:	**$200.00 PER STUDENT**

Additional details of arrival time, directions, etc. are included in this packet.

This is what we need you to do:

1. **DON'T SIT ON THIS MATTER.... ACT ON IT YOURSELF OR IMMEDIALY TURN IT OVER TO YOUR YOUTH CHAIRMAN OF BETTER STILL APPOINT A RYLA CHAIRMAN... FOLLOW UP ON EVERY STEP. 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 doesn't always get the recognition.

   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 sports, 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. Complete the attached form for student information and email a copy of the form to the reservations chairman Orlando Rubio as soon as possible.

   ORLANDO RUBIO
   Reservations Chairman
   Brady Rotary Club
   (325) 456-7108
   mrorubio@yahoo.com

   For those of you who wish to send more than two students, fell free to do so. Once again, please forward student information at your earliest opportunity. The fee for each additonal student is $200. Mail checks for addtional students to: RYLA District 5840, District Treasurer, Mr. John Wall, 8025 Flagstone Hill Dr., Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015.

5. Students will be released from the conference at noon on Monday, January 18, 2027.

6. Also attached is a letter for you to give to the student and/or parent so they have the same details.

7. **DON'T FORGET !!! DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS DECEMBER 18, 2026. PLEASE ACT ON THIS AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER!!**

For more information or to share a RYLA story, please contact District 5840 RYLA Chairman Diana Plummer at dianaplummer@hotmail.com or (210) 215-9964.

Rotary District 5840 | RYLA

Please submit this completed form for each student attending RYLA.

CLUB _____

SCHOOL _____

CLUB REP NAME _____

CLUB REP PHONE _____

CLUB REP EMAIL _____

NAME OF STUDENT _____

☐ BOY ☐ GIRL

STUDENT PHONE _____

STUDENT EMAIL _____

PARENT NAME _____

PARENT PHONE _____

PARENT EMAIL _____

Rotary District 5840 | RYLA

Dear RYLA Nominee.....CONGRATULATIONS **on being chosen by your school and the Rotary Clubs of District 5840 to participate in the 2027 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference. This is truly a unique and exciting conference/workshop and we hope you will realize and appreciate the honor in having been selected to attend. Below are the What, When, 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 150+ 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 and large group dialogues and I know that you will find these discussions interesting, thought provoking, entertaining and exciting. One session that I know 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 insights 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 of 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 Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend...January 15-18, 2027. you should plan to arrive at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch Lodge (directions attached) between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Friday night, January 15. A dinner buffet, including vegetarian dishes, will be set up during registration.

We understand that many of you are very involved in other activities 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, Jr. 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, tell your Rotary club sponsor so that substitutions can be made and your school will be represented or call me and I'll take care of it.**

WHERE?

RYLA takes place at the JOHN NEWCOMBE TENNIS RANCH in New Braunfels. 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 p.m. (parents, no earlier....please) on Monday, January 18. Parents or other drivers will pick 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 Diana Plummer - (210) 215-9964 (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 a sleeping bag, blanket (maybe two of them), towels, soap, etc. **Dress throughout the entire weekend is casual and comfortable (jeans, shorts & t's). You will be given a RYLA T-shirt. Remember the weather can change at any time so BRING A COAT, SWEATER, RAINCOAT, ETC. Many of the conference activities are scheduled outdoors (low ropes course, games, etc.) so bring sneakers (maybe even an extra pair), warmups and/or clothes that can get dirty, etc.). We also recommend you bring a water bottle to use after hours. You should also bring water shoes for the showers.**

WHAT NOT TO BRING

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ AND TAKE NOTE: **We recommend you NOT bring anything of value including laptops or other electronic items that may get lost or damaged. Cell phones are allowed but may not be used during any conference activities. you will not need money during the weekend.**

A non-denominational religious service and Catholic Mass will be held Sunday morning at Newks. These services are optional.

PLEASE NOTE: This entire conference and weekend has been designated as a smoke and drug free weekend. This includes tobacco, vapes, gummies and any other related products. Energy drinks are also prohibited.

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 tremendous, worthwhile and memorable weekend and we really are excited about having you!!!!

QUESTIONS?

If you or your parents/school Rotary club sponsor have questions, we can be reached at the following:

ORLANDO RUBIO
Reservations Chairman
Brady Rotary Club
(325) 456-7108
mrorubio@yahoo.com

DIANA PLUMMER
Conference Chairman
Alamo Heights Rotary Club
(210) 215-9964
dianaplummer@hotmail.com

Rotary District 5840 | RYLA

DIRECTIONS TO THE JOHN NEWCOMBE TENNIS RANCH

FROM AUSTIN/DALLAS:

- **Take Highway 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 come to the Highway 46 exit. Take that exit and turn right at the stop light.**
- **Go about 3 miles on Highway 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 stay on that road about 1/4 mile.**
- **The main entrance will be on your left. The Main Lodge is by the parking lot.**

FROM HOUSTON:

- **Take Highway 10 West to Seguin.**
- **Take the New Braunfels exit and go West on Highway 46. Stay on it about 15 miles to New Braunfels.**
- **When you go under Highway 35 in New Braunfels, Highway 46 turns into Loop 337 (McDonald's is on the right).**
- **Go 5 miles on Loop 337 until you come to the Highway 46 exit. Take that exit and turn right at the stop light.**
- **Go about 3 miles on Highway 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 stay on that road about 1/4 mile.**
- **The main entrance will be on your left. The Main Lodge is by the parking lot.**

FROM SAN ANTONIO:

- **Take Highway 35 North to New Braunfels.**
- **Take the Rueckle Road exit (#184). Turn left at the stop sign and pass over Highway 35.**
- **You will be on Loop 337. Go 5 miles on Loop 337 until you come to the Highway 46 exit. Take that exit and turn left at the stop light.**
- **Go about 3 miles on Highway 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 stay on that road about 1/4 mile.**
- **The main entrance will be on your left. The Main Lodge is by the parking lot.**

FROM BOERNE/WEST TEXAS:

- **Take Highway 10 East to the Highway 46 exit.**
- **Go East on Highway 46 towards New Braunfels.**
- **We are 15 Miles East of Highway 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 stay on that road about 1/4 mile.**
- **The main entrance will be on your left. The Main Lodge is by the parking lot.**

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

Rotary District 5840 | RYLA

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

"I give permission to my (circle) son/daughter, (please print students name) _____ _____, to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference, being held from January 15-18, 2027 inclusive, at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in 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 mentioned 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 referenced 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 2) John Newcombe Tennis Ranch personnel.**

_____ _____

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian **Date**

_____

Emergency Phone No.

STUDENT CONTRACT

In accepting this invitation to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards 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 15, 2027, 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 the appropriate signature line and ***BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU TO THE CONFERENCE***....
YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THIS FORM AT REGISTRATION

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 _____

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:

	Yes	No	Description:
I Have:			
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)

BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU TO THE CONFERENCE...
YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THIS FORM AT REGISTRATION

Accident Waiver and Release of Liability

In consideration of JGC Tennis, Inc. d/b/a John Newcombe Tennis Ranch ("Newks" herin) providing its services and right of entry onto its premises to me:

I HEREBY ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN ANY/ALL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH MY PRESENCE UPON THE NEWKS PREMISES (RECOGNIZING THAT THE HISTORIC PREMISES CONTAIN POTENTIAL RISKS OF HARM), PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES THAT I MAY ENGAGE IN UPON THE NEWKS PREMISES (INCLUDING TENNIS, SWIMMING, ROPES COURSE, ETC.), AND OFF PREMISES PROGRAMMING, AND HEREBY RELEASE NEWKS AND ITS OWNERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES, FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, LOSSES OR DAMAGES, INCLUDING BY WAY OF EXAMPLE AND NOT LIMITATION, ANY RISKS, CLAIMS, LOSSES OR ALLEGATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM NEGLIGENCE OR CARELESSNESS ON THE PART OF NEWKS, AND ITS OWNERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE HEREBY BEING RELEASED.

I have no physical or mental illness that precludes my participation in Newks programs and activities in a safe manner for myself or others. I am not under the influence of drugs or alcohol which impairs my ability to maintain safety awareness or endanger others.

I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form will be used by the organizers of the activity in which I may participate, and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities at said activity. I agree that all staff or authorized agents may, in their sole discretion, determine it is unsafe for myself or others for my participation to continue, remove me from the premises by any lawful means.

In consideration of my application and permitting me to participate in this activity, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows:

(A) **I WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LIABILITY CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OR FAULT OF THE PARTIES HEREIN RELEASED FOR MY DEATH, DISABILITY, PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, PROPERTY THEFT, OR ACTIONS OF ANY KIND WHICH MAY HEREAFTER OCCUR TO ME AND/OR MY MINOR CHILD IDENTIFIED BELOW;**

(B) **INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE THE PARTIES RELEASED HEREIN FROM OR FOR ANY AND ALL LIABILITIES OR CLAIMS MADE AS A RESULT OF MY OR MY MINOW CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY, EVEN IF CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES OR OTHER THIRD PARTY.**

I hereby consent to receive medical treatment which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident, and/or illness during this activity.
I understand that while participating in this activity, I may be photographed. I agree to allow my photo, video, or film likeness to be used for any legitimate purpose this authorizing entity assigns.
The Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT. I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Participants Signature	**Date**	**Participants Name (must be legible)**	**Age**

Parent/Guardian Signature	**Date**

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

(OVER)

BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU TO THE CONFERENCE...
YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THIS FORM AT REGISTRATION