



Dear Rotary Club President,

As 6420 District Chairman for RYLA 2021, I would like to thank you for your club's past support of the RYLA program. Over the years, we have seen first-hand the positive impact the program has had on our youth. Since 1992, we have graduated more than 2,000 students- and we're not stopping any time soon.

Looking to the future, we are asking for your help. We would like to better support your club by improving communications. Our RYLA Mission includes building relationships between students, supporting self-awareness, promoting cultural diversity, transforming minds, and having fun along the way! **To that end, we have created a quick [questionnaire \(please click link\)](#) so you can let us know how to support you in this endeavor. Please complete this by March 28th.**

As we are all aware, the ongoing pandemic has brought considerable challenges to in-person programs such as the RYLA Weekend Retreat. We have decided to seize this opportunity to try something different for our 2021 program, and plan to return to our traditional program in May of 2022.

Please see the attached brochure for the Virtual Youth Rotary Advanced Leadership (VYRAL) series of workshops we are offering to students in 2021. Each of the three workshops will offer similar activities, but unique content so that students who would like to attend more than one can gain deeper insight and make more friends! Additionally, we have asked our talented speakers to develop content that will not be repeated in 2022, encouraging students to return to the live event next year. Some key points you should know:

- **All communications will be done electronically this year, including an online application form. Local clubs will be responsible for sending the link for the application to approved students. HERE IS THE LINK:**
<http://bit.ly/ryla2021application>
- **Although there is no cost to attend these workshops, attendance will be limited to 75 participants per session.**
- **Additionally, students will still be required to be 'sponsored' by a local Rotary Club and be recommended by a school leader (principal, counselor) as in the past.**

- **We ask that you forward the information packet attached to your RYLA Coordinator and/or high school contacts as quickly as possible.**

We have scheduled a special Question and Answer Zoom meeting for any Club Rotary member who has questions about the new format for our program this year, how to get students signed up, and how to reach out to schools. Please join us on Wednesday, March 31 at 7:00 pm. [Please click here to RSVP by March 29](#) if you plan to attend (email with Zoom meeting link will be emailed on March 30).

With the limited access to students due to at-home and/or hybrid learning programs, our school leaders will have additional challenges to reach out to students and we want to maximize the time that they have available to do this.

Here is a list of important dates to mark on your calendars:

VYRAL 1: Making Your Dash Count

Event date: Friday, May 7, 2021

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30 pm

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: APRIL 1, 2021, MIDNIGHT

VYRAL 2: Now What? What to Do When Doors Open

Event date: Friday, August 6, 2021

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30 pm

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: JULY 1, 2021, MIDNIGHT

VYRAL 3: Minds are Best Kept Open

Event date: Saturday, November 6, 2021

Time: 9:00am – 10:30 am

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCTOBER 1, 2021, MIDNIGHT

As always, we are thankful for the support your Club offers to this program. We look forward to continuing to serve the youth in our communities and introducing them to the values of Rotary International by sharing messages of service to others, integrity, world understanding, goodwill and peace. Together, we create a better future.

Sincerely,

Dave Diamond, District Chairman
RYLA 2021

DD/bc