



January 16, 2026

Dear District 6420 Rotary Club President and Rotary Club Leaders,

As the Co-Chairs of the 2026 Rotary Youth Leadership Camp (RYLA), we are excited to introduce ourselves and promote the upcoming RYLA Camp for high school student leaders at year 2 of our new location! This year's event will be held at the **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois, from May 8th to 10th, 2026**. This program is designed for high school students who are eager to develop their leadership skills, and we have an exciting, action-packed weekend planned!

Teenagers today face unique challenges—deciding on post-high school careers, balancing academics with extracurricular activities, and navigating complex ethical dilemmas in everyday life. The RYLA Camp provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn how to work effectively in teams, enhance their decision-making skills, and tackle various scenarios through collaborative challenges.

We are thrilled about this year's programming, which will engage students in valuable lessons about teamwork, self-reflection, communication, decision-making, and other social skills that are essential for becoming productive, responsible leaders. We are asking each Club President to support this year's program by working with your RYLA Club Chair to encourage students to apply for the weekend event. Please note that the **deadline for submitting applications is April 15th**, as payments cannot be refunded for cancellations after that date. We have enclosed the weekend itinerary and online application link for students.

Having participated in RYLA for many years, we can confidently say that this program has a lasting impact on the youth who attend. We look forward to seeing many young leaders at the camp!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. You are welcome to contact us by phone or email.

Warmest regards!

Ginger Thompson, RYLA Co-Chair
Harlem High School Counselor
(815) 703-5810 cell
ginger.thompson@harlem122.org

Alisa Stewart, RYLA Co-Chair
Mendota High School Science Teacher
(815) 494-0875 cell
alisare72@gmail.com