



Congratulations on being invited to **RYLA**. We are going to have fun practice fulfilling our theme: **BUILD A WINNING TEAM**.

Probably your peak moments and best experiences in life will come when you've worked together with others to accomplish something. RYLA is about having fun learning the skills to bring more of those peak moments into your life.

Do you hate it when there's a group assignment in school and it's easier to do everything yourself than to get participation and then the people who did nothing get credit for your hard work? What if you had the leadership skill to build a team that knocked the assignment out of the park? We've got the solution for that. Heather Sherrill the Region 17 Education Support Center expert on collaboration will walk you through it.

Want to know how to build the bonds that help a team work together? You are going to get practice doing it.

Here's what some of the people who came to RYLA the previous time it was at South Plains College had to say:

Oh man it was one of the most fun experiences. Like I was a quiet person and I felt comfortable to get out and do stuff. I would do again if I could. Mac McRae

I was an exceptionally introverted high schooler, and thus very unsure about going to RYLA. However, I stepped out of my comfort zone enough to give it a try, and it was like they had a formula for cracking you out of your shell. I even felt comfortable enough to compete in the speech contest, which I ended

up winning! I made closer connections with the people in my group than in any other camp I'd been to, and I still keep up with these people on social media. They're all out there accomplishing great things and I'm currently attending vet school, but I still think about being a leader by forming relationships and the power of being positive. If nothing else, I had a lot of fun at camp and never regretted going!

Kate Allen

My RYLA experience was truly exceptional. It was the perfect blend of personal development, networking, fun and games, team development, and mentorship. I attended as I approached my senior year of high school. I felt as though RYLA equipped me to lead with confidence as I began my senior year. The activities taught at RYLA aided in my personal growth and in the college decision-making process. One standout part of RYLA was the Wired That Way personality assessment—it showed me my own strengths while simultaneously teaching me how to interact with others and their strength profiles to optimize relationships. I still keep in touch with a handful of RYLA attendees 7 years later, and would highly encourage the program to aspiring community and business leaders in the West Texas area!

Maggie Sather, MBA, SHRM-CP District 5730 RYLA 2015 Participant, RYLA 2017 Counselor

During my time at RYLA, I learned how vital leadership & community is to having a fruitful life. 7 years later, I lead a small group through church, am a vital part of my team at work, and try to foster community everywhere I go. I continuously use the skills and lessons I learned at RYLA to continue to succeed as a leader and community member. The positive energy and the people I met at my time in RYLA is something that still puts a smile on my face! I still keep in contact with the life long friends I made there. RYLA made an everlasting impact on the way that I confidently view myself as a member and leader of my community, and for that I am so grateful!!! Alaina Jennings

I was chosen to go to RYLA by my guidance counselor in high school. I was (I believe) the only one chosen to go to this. I really wasn't sure why but all I knew was that it was a great opportunity for me as a growing young leader. I didn't know what to expect out of this camp, but it exceeded my expectations DRASTICALLY. The activities we did to grow as leaders within our small groups, the speakers that came to talk about what being a leader is really about, and the staff... completely irreplaceable. I felt like I truly belonged somewhere. I felt like I could be my authentic self. I've been told I can be a bit "much", but RYLA made me realize that I'm not "too much" rather that I'm a leader and I'm here to make a difference in the world. Sam Carpenter

I learned that I work well with other people and could lead people if I want to. RYLA taught me not to doubt myself. Austin H.