



Dear Student Leader,

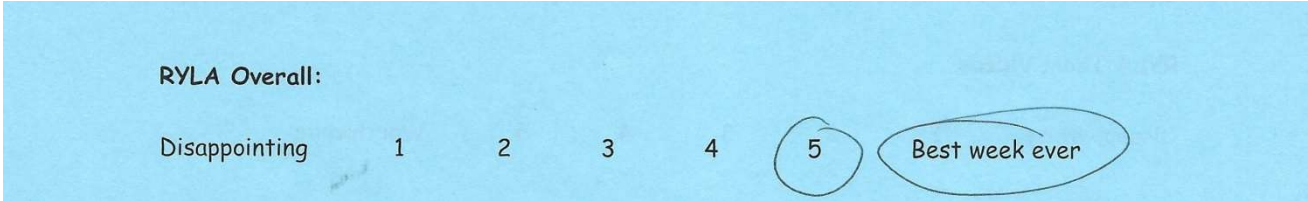
Congratulations on being invited to apply to RYLA. This resumé enhancing leadership camp June 3–7 at South Plains College in Levelland is for students who will be a Junior or Senior this fall. Great things happen when West Texas students selected by school counselors and Rotarians come together.

met my fav people ever

It was an amazing experience!!! <3

If selected, a District 5730 Rotary club will sponsor you: no cost to you or your family.

In evaluations last year 67% of participants gave RYLA a 5 on a scale where 1 was “Disappointing” and 5 was “Best week ever”. The average rank was 4.6.



Good leadership serves others; it listens, evaluates, tries new things, makes mistakes and improves. Evaluations in 2022 helped make the great results above possible. Responding to 2023 evaluations will likely make the RYLA you come to even better. Your evaluation can help improve RYLA for those who follow you.

The best experiences and your greatest accomplishments will probably occur working together in a group or team toward worthy goals. Our RYLA focuses on giving you practice and tools to build individuals into a team that can work together to solve challenges. You will be a part of a team with eight to twelve participants led by a recent RYLA participant and a Rotarian. These two counselors will guide your team through several challenges and most importantly add the evaluation and contemplation that turns experience into wisdom and capability.

Our world hungers for those who can work together to solve problems. We intend to have **fun** helping you build skills our world needs.

Here is what some people said who went through this program recently:

“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 A.

“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 M.

“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 S., MBA, SHRM-CP District 5730 RYLA 2015 Participant, RYLA 2017 Counselor

“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 C.

“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.

Looking forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,



John H Early, RYLA Chair District 5730