

RYTS (Rotary Youth Transition Seminar)

Rotary
District 9640



To the students attending RYTS

Thank you for your application to attend this year's RYTS camp. This year the camp will be held at Tyalgum Ridge Resort. As you read this you may have no idea what Rotary and RYTS is about. RYTS is an initiative of Rotary District 9640, part of an international organization of clubs committed to supporting the world's communities, locally nationally and internationally, all communities of which you are a part.

Rotary is over 100 years old. To Rotary, our young people, yes you and your peers, are believed to be fundamental to the future progress of our local, national and international communities. Fundamental to the advancement of humanity and to the way in which people of all cultures, colours, and religious inclinations accept and interact with each other.

RYTS is **not** a camp for religious, political or cultural education, it is **not** a camp for moralizing or intensive self-assessment, (but you may reflect on some aspects of where life has taken you, where you are going, how you will get there, and what you will do when you arrive) and you may have cause to revise some opinions and attitudes. **RYTS is a camp for you and about you.**

The RYTS camp exists to assist you in considering the transition from school to the world in which you soon must make your own way. Your RYTS experience may promote in you some questioning of where you fit into the whole scheme of things, who you are as a person, how you judge others, and in turn expect to be judged. How you accept, react and respond to others and events around you. Prepare yourself for a new encounter with yourself and with new friends. Prepare to share raucous laughter and sensitive sentimental moments, loud music and some quiet, reflective times with your fellow attendees, many of whom will become lifelong friends.

One of the amazing transformations obvious to outside observers is the transition from quiet and hesitant introductions on day one to laughing, serious, noisy, talkative interaction on day 3, to hugging, teary reluctant separations on day 7. This will be a week you won't want to forget.

RYTS has been functioning annually for 30 years in this Rotary district. RYTS is, in large part, about you as you approach a time in your life which comes with major change in lifestyle, new freedoms, hopes and aspirations, opportunities to put into effect long held ambitions and accept more serious responsibilities. Many of you are about to complete your last year of secondary education, and make the transition from the protection of parents and teachers into a new environment where you will be required to make responsible decisions affecting your hopes and ambitions, to consider more seriously the events around you and their long term impact on your life and the lives of others. Soon you will be required to take responsibilities for your own life and for decisions you must make as an independent entity on the journey along the road to your own destiny.

Possibly you have another year of school before you must make that transition. RYTS may give you reason to consider your independent future still one year away. This RYTS camp is but one element in Rotary's commitment to youth. The RYTS camp is run by some very dedicated young people who are not Rotarians and not all that much older than you. They have been participants of past Rotary Youth Programs (RYLA) and feel an obligation to do for you what has been done for them. They meet monthly for 6 months to prepare this camp, some traveling long distances. Some give up a week of their holidays, some take a week without pay to be here for you.

Rotarians give up time on their weekends to sell raffle tickets, run sausage sizzles, sell hot dogs, fine each other at club meetings and many other things to collect funds to finance this camp.

We hope that RYTS will inspire you to one day seek a place in a RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) a program for young adults who have made the transition from school. Segregated bunk room accommodation and 3 meals per day are provided. Please ensure that you advise us of any special dietary requirements you have.

You will need to bring the following:

1. An open mind (most important)
2. Lots of smiles (most desirable)
3. A desire and willingness to: join in, make friends, laugh, get serious, get noisy (there's lots of that), get involved, contemplate, listen, talk, think and relax.

4. Medical Needs - Be sure to bring any medication **you MAY need**. Please ensure we are aware of any special medical conditions you have.

5. Clothing - Bring enough clothing for **more than one week** including old clothes you can get wet, painted, muddy, etc, warm clothing, swimwear & Formal attire.

6. Toiletry Needs - Deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, towels etc.

7. Bedding - Pillow and pillowcase, fitted sheet, sheets & blanket or sleeping bag

8. Other Items - Covered shoes, thongs, sunscreen, hat & sunglasses.

Please bring about \$10 in Gold and Silver coins for the drink machine. - Feel free to also bring along a musical instrument.

Now some serious stuff... The future of our youth programs depends on maintaining a good reputation for doing the right thing by you, your parents, your school, your sponsor clubs and Rotary International. That is why the line above your signature on your application says **"I agree that I will not smoke, use non-prescription drugs or drink alcohol while attending RYTS. I agree to abide by the camp rules."** There will be more rules when you arrive, most of which you will set yourselves.

More info about RYTS can be found on the Rotary 9640 web site. Remember - Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react. Looking forward to meeting you all for a great week!