

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Rotary District 9675

18 - 23 January 2026 at Stanwell Tops

Thank you for your interest in attending the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program!

RYLA is a life-changing program, providing an incredible opportunity to develop yourself as a leader alongside around 45 participants. This will be a week of your life that you'll never forget, and we'd love you to be involved!

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1. Key Information for RYLA Candidates

What is RYLA?

RYLA in Rotary District 9675 is an amazing leadership program for young adults aged between 19 and 25 organised by local members of Rotary International in the Sydney, Macarthur, and Illawarra areas. The 6-day program typically has around 45 participants and focuses on building leadership, personal development, teamwork and community service. RYLA features presentations from many experts who generously donate their time and experience to further the development of young leaders. The program combines workshops and presentations to fully explore the fundamentals of effective leadership.

Typically, all RYLA participants, a.k.a. "RYLArians", are generously sponsored to attend by a local Rotary Club. RYLA costs \$800 (inc. GST) for each participant, and this cost is typically covered in full by a local Rotary Club.

What is Rotary International?

Rotary International is a global network of 1.2 million community leaders who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. There are 35,000+ Rotary and Rotaract Clubs around the world. Rotarians and Rotaractors provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Why should I attend RYLA?

RYLA is truly a life-changing experience. The program is an opportunity to understand yourself and others, and understand the different avenues of being a leader. You will form amazing connections with your fellow participants, and the impact on your life will go well-beyond the time you spend together.

Who can attend RYLA?

Anyone who wishes to develop themselves as a leader can attend RYLA! The program is for young adults who have been a year out of high school, typically aged around 19 to 25. This is a great time after high school to understand yourself more and what you want out of life. We are seeking anyone that wishes to make an impact on the community and are committed to ongoing learning. It is strongly encouraged that you have an adequate understanding of English in order to get the most out of the program.

Typically, each RYLArian is generously sponsored in full by a local Rotary Club. The application must be approved by a sponsoring Rotary Club, which will require an interview by the Club. All successful candidates are required to present to their sponsoring Rotary Club after the program to provide feedback about their experience and also show their appreciation for this incredible opportunity.

When and where is RYLA?

The next RYLA will be held from Sunday, 18 January to Friday, 23 January 2026 at the Grevillea site at The Tops Conference Centre, 51 Bendena Gardens, Stanwell Tops NSW 2508.

You must be able to attend for the entire duration of the program.

How can I apply?

Attention CANDIDATES!

Please complete the **BLUE** sections below of this official RYLA Application form.

- If you have been nominated by a local Rotary Club, please send this completed and signed form to the Rotary Club you have been speaking with.
- If you have not been nominated by a local Rotary Club, that's ok! Your application will be included in a pool of candidates and we will find a Rotary Club to sponsor you on your behalf. Please send this completed and signed form to ryla9675.seminarteam@gmail.com, and the team will be in touch.

Important Dates

30 November 2025 - Applications must be endorsed by Rotary Clubs

18 January 2026 - RYLA Begins!

2. Instructions for Rotary Clubs

Attention ROTARY CLUBS!

Please share this application form with any young leaders or community group with young leaders that you believe would be great candidates for RYLA.

Upon receipt of their application, please complete the **GOLD** sections at the end and send the completed form to ryla9675.seminarteam@gmail.com.

Upon your candidate's completion of the RYLA program, your club will be issued an invoice from the District Treasurer.

If you require assistance finding candidates, securing sponsorship for candidates, or organising transportation to and from the venue, please contact ryla9675.seminarteam@gmail.com.

For all RYLA communication, please email ryla9675.seminarteam@gmail.com.

3. RYLA Candidate Application Form

Please consider the following points prior to submitting your completed application form. Please read and complete this form thoroughly.

- Acceptance into RYLA is dependent on sponsorship by a local Rotary Club (or business). If you aren't in contact with a club, we can assist you in seeking sponsorship. Final decisions are at the discretion of individual Rotary Clubs. Business sponsorships are accepted and highly encouraged.
- As Rotary Clubs and businesses invest significantly in sending candidates to RYLA, **it is extremely important that you are able to attend the program for the entire duration.** Participants are strongly discouraged from leaving the program location during the week. A participant leaving and returning is disruptive for all participants and interferes with their ability to gain the maximum value from the program. Prior to submitting your application, please ensure you are able to take holidays from work or other commitments, and schedule the time away.
- All participants are required to return to their sponsoring Rotary Club after the RYLA program and deliver a presentation or similar about their RYLA experience. Business sponsorships may have similar expectations. More information will be provided on this at RYLA.
- **In completing and signing this application form, you are consenting to the information on this form being collected for the purposes of organising the Rotary District 9675 Rotary Youth Leadership Award program for January 2026. This information will be shared with parties that are responsible for the organisation of this event.**

SECTION 1: CANDIDATE DETAILS			
First name		Last name	
Preferred name		Date of birth	
Gender		Preferred pronouns	
Address			
Phone Number			
Email address			
Dietary Requirements			
Allergies			
Medical requirements			

SECTION 2: ABOUT RYLA

Please describe your reasons for wanting to attend RYLA in 200 words or less.

RYLA is conducted in the English language. As a volunteer effort, it does not have the capacity to support individuals in need of a translator. To ensure all participants gain as much value as possible from attending the program, can you please confirm that you are proficient in speaking, listening, reading and writing in the English language?

To attend RYLA you must be on-site for the entire program (18 - 23 January 2026). Do you confirm that you will be fully present during these dates? (You must confirm with your employer, university or relevant stakeholders that you'll have the required leave).

RYLA is designed to provide you with a supportive environment to develop your leadership and teamwork. The program will challenge you in a number of ways - you will be on-site for a week, surrounded by many new people and engaging in a wide range of content and activities.

With this said, if there is anything that may impact your experience that you would like to let us know about? E.g. needing breaks between activities, anxiety-related interferences etc.

SECTION 3: ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Please describe your current pursuits with work and/or study in 200 words or less.

Please describe your leadership experience, with examples in 200 words or less.

Please share your other interests, achievements, hobbies and sports in 200 words or less.

SECTION 4: PROGRAM RULES AND GUIDELINES

The RYLA team tries to make the program as fun and as enjoyable as possible, while ensuring the comfort and safety of all participants. To help achieve this we ask participants to adhere to the rules outlined below. Breaching these guidelines may result in you being asked to leave the program.

1. Participants are required to abide by the RYLA rules and guidelines as well as expectations set by the venue staff.
2. Illicit drugs and alcohol are strictly prohibited.
3. Participants will be allocated gender separate rooms and this segregation must be respected. Gender-diverse and/or nonbinary participants are encouraged to indicate their preferences for allocated rooms, and the RYLA team will work to accommodate them. Participants must also be courteous of other participants as well as other visitors to the site.
4. Participants should bring all personal items required for the week. A list of what to bring will be emailed after successful application. Participants are solely responsible for their own personal items.
5. Participants will be required to undertake minimum cleaning and general housekeeping requirements, which will be communicated at RYLA.
6. Participants must attend and adhere to meal and session times.
7. Participants are strongly encouraged to arrange transport to-and-from the venue with a designated driver other than themselves, or via public transport. The RYLA seminars have full days with activities that can be physically, intellectually and/or emotionally demanding. Having a designated driver or means other than themselves is the safest option after a 6-day program.
Participants catching public transport to the nearest train station can arrange a pickup by the RYLA team. Transport may also be provided by Rotarians from the participant's sponsoring club. Participants may be permitted to transport themselves in exceptional circumstances.
Leaving the site during the program is strongly discouraged unless strictly necessary e.g. due to a family emergency. A participant leaving and returning is disruptive for all participants and interferes with their ability to gain the most value from the program.
8. Participants are responsible for their behaviour and any misconduct will not be tolerated.
9. Participants must be considerate of differing views, perspectives and opinions and be respectful to participants, the facilitators, guest speakers and the venue staff.

NAME OF CANDIDATE	SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE	DATE

SECTION 5: CANDIDATE AGREEMENT

Please read this section carefully and sign if you agree.

1. I confirm that all information provided within this document is complete and accurate.
2. I will be positive, respectful and actively participate within my capabilities in all aspects of the RYLA program.
3. I commit to adhere to all rules and guidelines of the RYLA Program and the venue and will follow all reasonable instructions.
4. I agree to visit my sponsoring Rotary Club after the program to provide feedback about my RYLA experience.
5. I hereby absolutely release and discharge Rotary District 9675 and Rotary International and all its employees, agents and voluntary helpers from and against all claims whatsoever arising out of death, personal injury or loss or damage to personal property that the candidate may suffer or sustain in the course of the program period.
6. I agree that in the event of injury to myself where I am not able to make a decision, RYLA representatives are authorised to obtain, at my expense, any medical, ambulance or like service that they in your absolute discretion think necessary.
7. I understand that my participation is generously sponsored by a Rotary Club and I commit to attending the program.
8. I understand that in signing this application form I consent to the information on this form being collected for the purposes of organising the Rotary District 9675 Rotary Youth Leadership Award program. I understand that this information will be shared with parties that are responsible for the organisation of this event.

NAME OF CANDIDATE	SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE	DATE

SECTION 6: MEDIA RELEASE

Please read this section carefully and sign if you agree.

I authorise Rotary District 9675, the RYLA facilitating team and its authorised Agents to use any photographs, video footage and other electronic media taken that may include myself on the RYLA program as promotional material for the purposes of promoting the activities of Rotary. I understand this may include, but is not limited to, printed brochures, press releases, website and social media, promotions, newsletters and testimonials.

NAME OF CANDIDATE	SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE	DATE

SECTION 7: FINDING A SPONSOR ROTARY CLUB

Are you currently in contact with a Rotary Club that has indicated interest in sponsoring you?

YES

NO

→ If **YES**, please fill in the details below and send this completed and signed form to the Rotary Club you are in contact with.

Name of Rotary Club

Name of Contact at the Rotary Club

→ If **NO**, that's ok! Your application will be included in a pool of candidates and we will find a Rotary Club to sponsor you on your behalf. Send this completed and signed form to ryla9675.seminarteam@gmail.com

4. Sponsoring Rotary Club Nomination and Agreement Form

This section is for the Sponsoring Rotary Club to complete

This section is for the Rotary Club to complete. A separate form must be completed for each participant that is nominated for sponsorship. Please note that this application will not be accepted if this section is not completed.

Applications close 30 November 2025. The nominating Rotary Club must send this completed and signed form to ryla9675.seminarteam@gmail.com before the deadline.

An invoice will be sent to your Club when the application is approved.

SECTION 1: ROTARY CLUB DETAILS	
Name of Rotary Club	
Name of Contact at the Rotary Club	
Phone of Contact at the Rotary Club	
Email of Contact at the Rotary Club	

SECTION 2: NOMINATION BY ROTARY CLUB			
Name of RYLA candidate (as stated in above application)			
The candidate has been interviewed and selected by our club	YES	NO	
The candidate has or will be attending one of our club's meetings	YES	NO	
How will the RYLarian be arriving and departing from Stanwell Tops? (In the interests of participant safety, we do not endorse permitting the RYLarian to drive themselves to and from the venue.)			

SECTION 3: REASONS FOR ENDORSEMENT

Please list the reasons you are endorsing this participant to attend RYLA.

Please provide all information you believe is relevant to the RYLA seminar team about this participant's involvement in the program.

SECTION 4: ROTARY CLUB AGREEMENT

Please read this section carefully and sign if you agree.

We, the Rotary Club recorded above, nominate the person named within this application to attend RYLA from 18 - 23 January 2026, at The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops.

We acknowledge that submission of this nomination with payment does not guarantee acceptance.

Our club agrees that should our candidate be accepted, we undertake to make payment of \$950 (inc GST) to cover the program costs for this participant within a month from the program finishing.

(Upon your candidate's completion of the RYLA program, your club will be issued an invoice from the District Treasurer.)

NAME OF AUTHORISED PERSON	SIGNATURE OF AUTHORISED PERSON	DATE