



**Rotary District 7475
Drew University
June 10,11,12, 2022
Frequently Asked Questions**

What is RYLA?

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an international program created by Rotary International to encourage strong leadership in youth. Young people chosen for their leadership potential attend an all-expenses-paid weekend held at Drew University to develop and enhance leadership skills through activities conducted in an atmosphere of trust and respect.

Who Pays for RYLA?

Students are sponsored by local Rotary Clubs. The sponsoring Rotary club pays \$275 per student attendee. This includes your food, lodging, session materials and all activities. Be sure you know which Rotary Club is sponsoring your attendance.

Can I Pay for my son/daughter to attend RYLA?

No, students are sponsored by local Rotary Clubs. You may contact your local Rotary club to see if they are sponsoring RYLA students this year.

Where does RYLA take place?

Drew University is located at 36 Madison Avenue, Madison, New Jersey 07940. Part of the RYLA experience is to give students an introduction to college life by using university facilities including, dorms, meals, classrooms, recreational space, etc. Additional information including directions can be found on the Drew website at www.drew.edu

Will I have my own Room?

No. There will be 2 to 4 students in each dorm room.

Refunds and Cancellations

If you cancel before May 31st a full refund will be issued to the Rotary Club that sponsored your participation in RYLA. If you cancel after May 31st there are no refunds. Individual families are expected to reimburse the sponsoring Rotary Club in the event of no show or cancellation.

What is the start and end time of RYLA?

RYLA starts June 10th at 4:30 pm and ends June 12th at 11:30 am. Please make arrangement for drop off and pick up at these times.

The goal of RYLA is to teach leadership skills. Components of RYLA will include:

- ✚ Fundamentals of leadership
- ✚ Ethics of positive leadership
- ✚ Importance of communication skills in effective leadership
- ✚ Conflict management and problem solving
- ✚ Building self-esteem and self-confidence
- ✚ Elements of community and global citizenship
- ✚ Rotary's purpose of service to the community and world

Who Supervises

Each RYLA Session will be supervised on site by the RLYA Director who has been involved with RYLA for 20 plus years. He is assisted by a staff of volunteers who also have been involved with the program for several years. All staff and volunteers are trained in working with youth leadership development programs.

What is Rotary?

Rotary is a volunteer organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotary club members belonging to 35,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. One focus of Rotary is youth development. Rotary sponsors RYLA, provides scholarships and encourages leadership development.

When should I apply to participate in RYLA?

RYLA Applications are accepted beginning March 1, 2022. There is an 80-student capacity. Deadline for applications are May 31, 2022 or when the program reaches enrollment capacity. Register early!

What is the cost and who pays for my participation in RYLA?

The cost for the RYLA weekend is \$275.00 all inclusive. Your local Rotary Club believes in helping youth to develop leadership skills. The cost of participation is generally paid for by your local Rotary Club.

What is the refund policy for non-attendance?

Students may withdraw prior to May 31, 2022 without penalty. After May 31, 2020 there are no refunds or substitutions. After May 31st parents will be expected to reimburse the sponsoring Rotary Club \$275.00 for student cancellations or no shows.

What if I am ill or cannot attend and need to cancel at the last minute?

If you cancel after May 31, 2020, students/family will be expected to reimburse your sponsoring Rotary Club \$275.00 the cost of participation. After May 31st your participation/payment is guaranteed and must be paid regardless if you attend or not.

Where do students eat and sleep?

Students will spend two nights in the dorm rooms at Drew University and have meals in Drew's food service facilities. Dorm rooms will be air conditioned this year.

Do I get to choose who I share a room with or who I'm in a group with?

No, students do NOT get to choose their groupmates or roommates. We intentionally separate friends and/or students from the same school. It is part of the learning process and program of RYLA

Can my parents or friends visit me at camp?

Parents and friends are welcome at the check in and check out time. Parents and friends are not permitted to be onsite during the actual RYLA program. Everyone at RYLA is thoroughly screened to ensure your child is safe. We do not allow anybody to be involved with RYLA that hasn't been through Rotary's screening process. We encourage all participants to take as many photos as possible to share with friends and family immediately following the close of camp.

What if I have a medical condition or other reason why I would not be able to fully participate?

Be sure to discuss this with the RYLA registrar in advance of your participation. Every effort will be made to provide reasonable accommodations for any participant who has a special need.

Will there be recreational activities?

The RYLA program has team building activities that include a moderate level of physical activity. Additionally, there will be group recreational activities using Drew's swimming pool and gymnasium. Be sure to bring your swimsuit and an extra towel.

May I bring my guitar or other musical instrument?

You're welcome to bring an acoustic guitar, strum-stick, harmonica or other portable, relatively quiet instrument; however, there is no guarantee whether you'll have a suitable opportunity to play it. You are solely responsible for any loss or damage, just as with all other personal property you bring with you.

May I leave the Drew Campus to go into town?

NO, students are required to remain on campus and with the RYLA group from the start to end of the RYLA program

Are there vegetarian - gluten free options for food?

All meals are served cafeteria style. Vegetarian and Gluten free options are available. If you have special dietary needs be sure to let RYLA organizers know in advance. Students will be expected to manage their own food needs.

Can I leave during the program to take SAT/ACT test, or participate in a family event?

No – The program is based on full participation from Friday, 4:30 pm to Sunday, 11:30 am. If you have any conflict that would require you to leave the program for any reason, DO **NOT REGISTER**. Please note there is an ACT test scheduled for June 11, 2022

What should I bring?

- Sleeping bag or bedding for twin bed and your favorite pillow.
- Swimsuit and extra towel for swimming
- Toiletries include soap – towels etc.

- Sneakers and comfortable clothing there will be activities in the gymnasium as well as outdoor training and exercises. Often times you will be sitting on the ground outside or the carpeted floor of a classroom
- Sweatshirt as all classrooms and common areas are air conditioned and cool.
- Snacks and extra food will be provided
- Any medications or personal items

What not to bring?

Do not bring anything valuable. The RYLA program is not responsible for any lost, misplaced or stolen property.

Do I need to bring any spending money?

There is nothing to buy at Drew – book store and food coop will be closed during your stay.

What is the age limit for RYLA?

RYLA is designed for high school juniors (those students finishing their Junior year), on rare occasion we may accept a sophomore or senior into the program with advance approval.

SPECIAL NOTE: RYLA will be open to Juniors and Seniors this year due to the fact that RYLA did not occur for the last two years because of Covid.

Are there any expectations after I complete the RYLA program?

Yes, use the skills that you learn. Your local Rotary club may ask you to attend a local Rotary meeting and provide feedback about your RYLA experience.

Can I drive to Drew and is there parking?

No, students are not permitted to bring their own vehicles to RYLA. Please make arrangement for someone to drop off and pick up – parking on campus is limited and our group has not contracted for any parking passes

What is Rotary's Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth?

Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability, the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of, children and young people with whom they come into contact.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

Contact Barry Kroll, RYLA registrar, at barrykroll@aol.com. In an emergency, call 973-476-2772