

**Rotary**



District 5870 Central Texas



***#IDistrictStrong***

# RYLA Roundup 2025

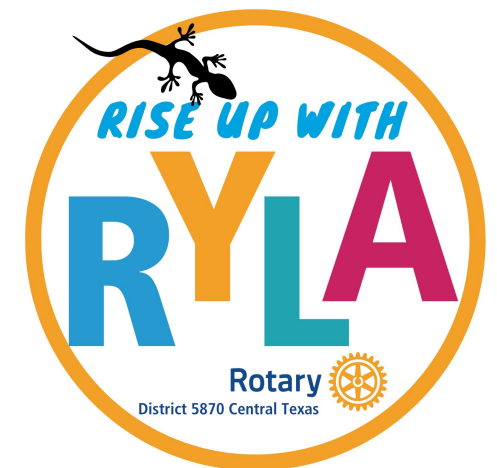
9 August 2025



**#IDistrictStrong**

# Agenda

- **Program Overview**
  - What we do, why we do it, and how your club can participate
- **Camper Selection**
  - Resources, ideas, do's & don'ts
- **Promoting RYLA in your Club and in your community**
- **Registration Process**
  - Forms, expectations, communication, and important dates
- **Review of Resources**
- **Q & A**



# INTRODUCTIONS & ICE BREAKER

## Introduce Yourself

- Name
- Club Name
- Role

## Share

- What RYLA Means to you?
- What do you know about RYLA?



# Your District 5870-Central Texas RYLA TEAM



## **Camp Director**

Cathy Keagy  
Northwest Austin



## **Program Director**

Cutter Braun



## **Program Director**

Jen Nardecchia



## **District Governor Elect**

Jeff Coleman  
Pflugerville



## **Youth Services Chair**

PDG Rick Stacy  
Texas Hill Country Passport

# D5870-Central Texas RYLA Steering Committee



## **Camp Director**

Cathy Keagy  
Northwest Austin



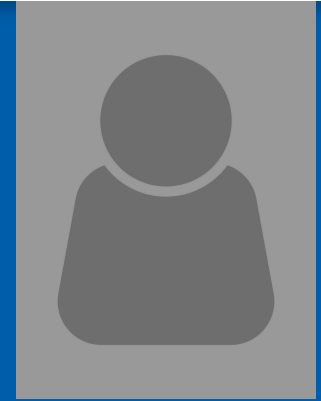
## **Registrar**

Marty Ellman  
Round Rock Sunrise



## **Treasurer**

Chuck Dart  
Cameron



## **Youth Protection**

TBD



## **Medical Officer\***

TBD



## **RYLA 2027 Camp Director**

Ashley Rodriguez  
E-Club of 5870



## **RYLA 2027 Camp Co-Director**

Eli Alborn  
Pflugerville



## **Youth Services Chair**

PDG Rick Stacy  
Texas Hill Country Passport



# Your RYLA PROGRAM Core Team



**Program Director**

Cutter Braun  
Yoakum



**Program Co-Director**

Jen Nardecchia  
Taylor



**Head Logistics Counselor**

Charlie Williams  
Taylor



**Head Camp Activity Counselor**

Morgan Weems  
Marble Falls Daybreak



**Head Camp Activity Counselor**

McKenna Kerns  
Cedar Park / Leander



**Head Boys Counselor**

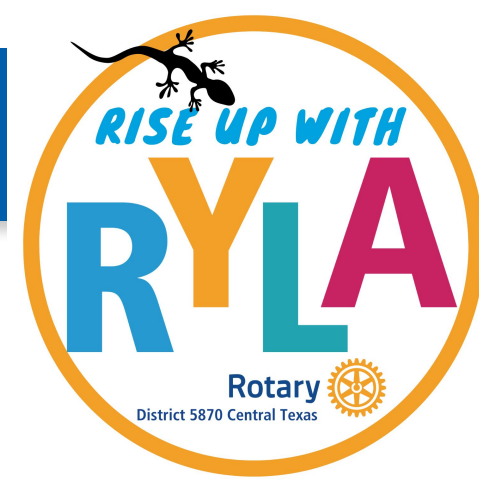
Arnold Icaro  
Pflugerville



**Head Girls Counselor**

Vic Patterson  
Georgetown Sun City

# WHAT IS RYLA?



## Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

An *intensive* leadership experience organized by Rotary Clubs and Districts where young people can develop leadership skills while having fun and making connections.



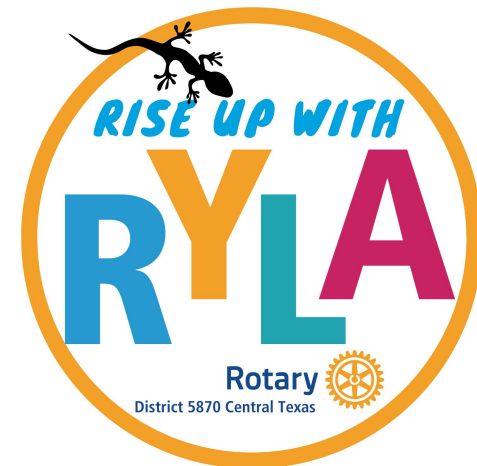
# WHAT IS RYLA?

*RYLA aims to:*

- Demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth
- Provide experiential training for *selected* youth and *potential* leaders
- Promote peer-to-peer collaboration and cooperation
- Recognize young people who are rendering admirable service to their communities.

**RYLA participants are nominated by Rotary clubs.**

**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**



# RYLA OVERVIEW

## *Our Mission:*

Develop servant leaders for our district and the global community through leadership training for youth by youth

## *Camp Goals:*

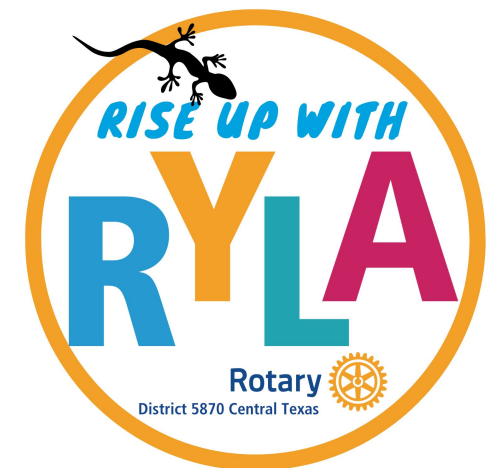
Social Responsibility

Global Citizenship

Personal Development

## *Core Principles:*

Teamwork, Tolerance, Life Skills, Leadership



# RYLA 2026 - Twin Lakes Family YMCA, Cedar Park



**RYLA 2026**

**Twin Lakes Family YMCA,  
in Cedar Park, TX**

**JUNE 28 - JULY 3**

**Incoming High School  
Jr. and Sr.**



## YMCA TWIN LAKES CAMPUS

**CAMP NORTH ENTRANCE**  
204 E. Little Elm Trail  
Cedar Park TX, 78613

**CAMP SOUTH ENTRANCE**  
1902 S. Bell Blvd.  
Cedar Park TX, 78613

Summer Day  
Camp Check in  
Restrooms  
Summer Medic Station

### Overnight Cabins

Charles Avery Family Cabin  
**Bunks 11 & 12**  
CHASCO Cabin  
**Bunks 21 & 22**

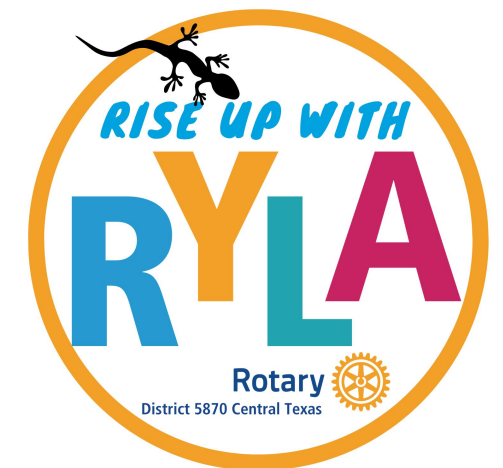
John Avery Family Cabin  
**Bunks 41 & 42**  
Wheeler Cabin  
**Bunks 51 & 52**

Welcome to RYLA...

# What Makes Rise Up with RYLA Different?

Presenter: CORE Team

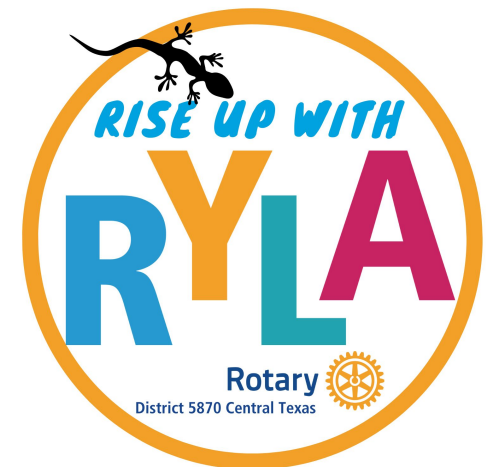
- 6 days
  - Sunday through Friday
- Brother / Sister Cabins
  - 1:1 Ratio / 45 Boys:45 Girls
- Themes:
  - Sunday: Discovery & Communication
  - Monday: Trust & Vulnerability
  - Tuesday: Problem Solving & Supporting Others
  - Wednesday: Leadership & Teamwork
  - Thursday: Service & Awareness
  - Friday: Gratitude & Application



# Key Programs

Presenter: Core Staff

- Night Hike
- No Cliques Allowed
- Service Project
- Treasure Hunt
- Olympics
- High Ropes



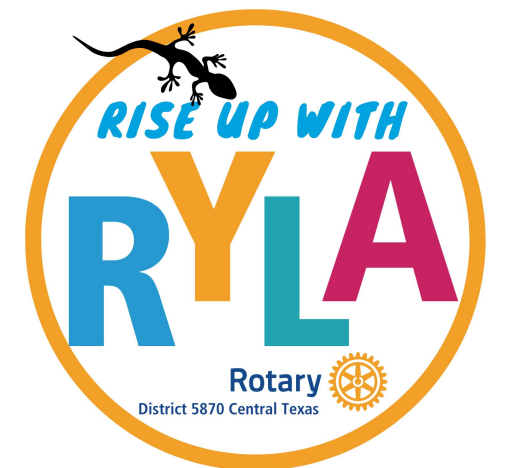


# RYLA 2025 STAFF



- 37 - 40 RYLA Staff (Alumni)
- 6 Trainings throughout the year
- 4 Staff Teams
  - CORE Team
  - Counselors (C)
  - Assistant Counselors (AC)
  - Camp Activity Counselors (CAC)

**Servant Leadership: Taking it to the next level**



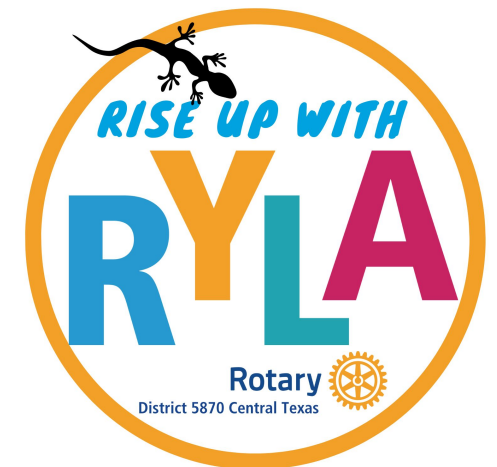
# CAMPER SELECTION - Criteria

Presenter: Core Staff

- ✓ Articulate
- ✓ Proactive
- ✓ Gets along well with others
- ✓ Flexibility when facing new situations
- ✓ Participate in strenuous physical activity
- ✓ Sound moral character
- ✓ High Heat & Sun exposure for long periods

**MOST IMPORTANT GIRL - BOY Ratio**

*1 girl : 1 boy*

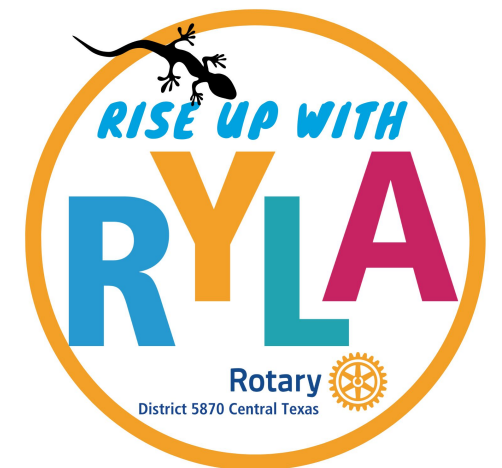


# THINGS TO WATCH FOR...

Presenter: Core Staff

- GPA below 2.5
- Top tier students – captain of the football team
- Behavioral or emotional problems
- Social disorders
- Fully participate in camp - unlikely
- Disrespect of Authority and / or limits

**Goal: Select campers that will participate and benefit the most**



# WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW AND FOR RYLA 2026?

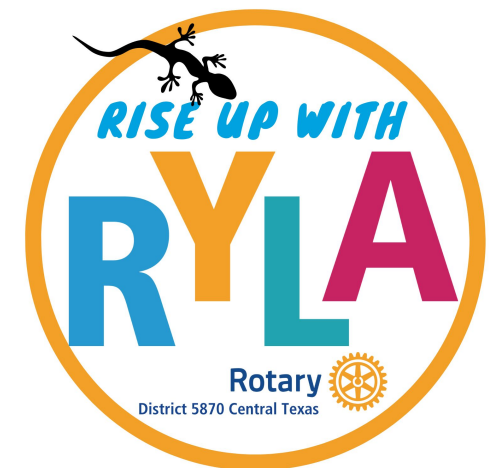
- **Identify RYLA Club Chair/Coordinator**
- **Identify Young Leader Contact**
- **RYLA Checklist - Important Dates**
  - Campers
  - Sponsorships
  - Volunteers
- **Build Relationships, nurture next Generation Rotarians**
  - RYLA Campers > Interact Clubs
  - RYLA Alumni > Rotaract Clubs
  - Club Communications
- **Youth Protection - All Volunteers are Volunteer Ready!**

**RYLA 2026: June 28 - July 3 Twin Lakes YMCA Family Camp**



# CLUB COORDINATORS

- **Club Sponsorship Commitment and Form and Payment**
- **Recruitment** - Spread the word
- **Selection** - Interview candidates
  - Select primary & alternates (1 boy/1 girl)
- **Registration**
  - Application must be complete and accurate
- **Orientation/Communication**
  - Stay in touch with campers and parents

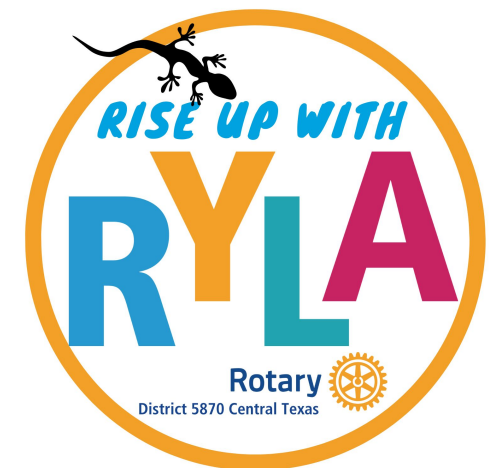




# INVEST WISELY

- Interview Selection Process
- Engage Schools - Share Criteria / Ask for help
- Communicate Regularly w Campers
  - *Before* Camp - Ensures they Attend
  - *After* Camp - Return on Investment

**IMPORTANT – this is an Award!**



# COMMUNICATION - COMMUNICATE EARLY AND OFTEN

- Meet Parents
- Communicate regularly
  - Monthly March-May
  - Weekly if necessary, in June
- Transportation
  - Communicate early about your club providing transportation

## Stay Connected with your Campers

- Invite them to your club *before & after* camp
- Club Events and Service Projects
- Have past campers help recruit next year!

***UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD***



# POWERED BY ROTARIANS!

- **Rotarian Volunteers**
  - Transportation (88+)
  - Meal Servers and Laundry (35+)
  - Registration, Peace Project Speaker, Service Project (10+)
- **Medical Officer**
  - Nurse or other First-Aid / CPR qualified person on site
- **Food Services**
  - Twin Lakes Family YMCA
- **Youth Protection - Volunteer Ready**
  - Annual - Protecting Youth Program Participants 2025-26 ([Learn.Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org/learn/en/protecting-youth-program))
  - Valid Background Checks, 6-weeks before RYLA (Ed Martin - Austin Westlake)
- **Workout Instructor - Eli Alborn - Pflugerville**
  - Leads 7am Workout every morning of camp... and they LOVE IT!

# CLUB SPONSORSHIP

- **Financial Sponsor:**

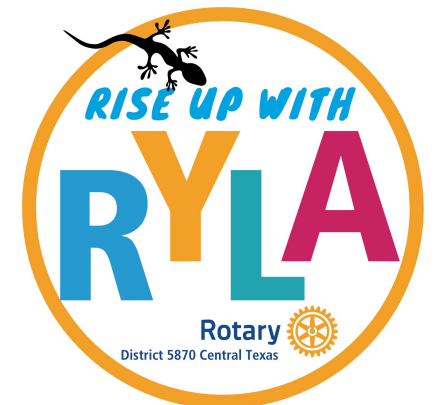
- Campers \$740 each (\$715 early bird special!)
- Meals \$500 or Snacks \$300
- Staff Scholarships \$500
- Service Project (any donation helps offset project costs)

- **Volunteer**

- Transport campers (2 drivers)
- Serve Meals as a Club
- Laundry - wash-n-fold (M-Th)

- **RYLA Alumni**

- Program presentations
- Club events & projects



# CLUB SPONSORSHIP – ONLINE



About ▾ Events ▾ Membership ▾ Foundation ▾ Public Image ▾ Training ▾ Youth ▾ Clubs ▾

## Rise Up With RYLA

### RYLA

#### Rotary Clubs

[RYLA Roundup 2025](#)

[RYLA Timeline and Deadlines 2025-26](#)

[RYLA Club Sponsorship Form](#)

[Interview Questions for Camper Selection](#)

[RYLA Roundup 2024](#)

[RYLA Alumni](#)

[Interact Clubs](#)

District 5870

**Rotary Youth Leadership Exchange**  
experience organizing  
people can develop  
connections.



## RYLA 2025-2026 Club Sponsorship Form

**Support Camp RYLA** in the following ways:

- Camper Sponsorship
- Meal Sponsorship
- RYLA Staff Scholarships
- Service Project support
- Other Financial Support

**Make all checks payable to:** Rotary District 5870.

**Due Date:** Return of this form with payment by March 15, 2026.  
No forms will be considered after this date.

**Final Instructions:** A copy of your form submission will be emailed to the address you provide in this form.

**Refund requests** must be in writing to Cathy Keagy:

- By March 31, 2026 (email date or postmark) - 100% less \$20 processing fee
- By April 30, 2026 (email date or postmark) - 50% less \$20 processing fee
- NO REFUNDS after April 30, 2026

Make Check Payable to:  
ROTARY DISTRICT 5870

MAIL PAYMENT & FORM TO:  
Cathy Keagy





# RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROMOTE RYLA

## #1 Resource – <http://www.rotarydistrict5870.org/SitePage/ryla>

*Brochures, Forms, Contact Info, Videos, Interview Questions, Press Release, School Poster*

### Get the word out!

Social media

- RYLA Facebook page: Rise Up with RYLA
- Instagram: @RYLA5870

Local newspaper, School Announcements

Word of mouth

RYLA Alumni

### Allies in the schools

Teachers, counselors, **RYLA Alumni**

### Allies in the community

Churches, employers, etc.



# CAMPER REGISTRATION – ONLINE

**SINGLE FORM** replaced the *old* 2-part Paper Forms

**Form located on the RYLA webpage**

**FORM SUBMISSION PROCESS >>>**

1. Club notifies potential Camper of Award
2. Camper Submits with Parent Permission
3. E-Signature - Parental Consent
4. Completed Forms sent to Clubs to Review and Confirm

**IMPORTANT – Clubs Confirm  
Camper is Sponsored by *their* Club**

**RYLA Campers**

Camper Registration Form

What to Bring

Rotary International RYLA link



# IMPORTANT DATES - deadlines subject to change

- **November 30<sup>th</sup> – Club Sponsorship, Early Bird ends.**

- \$715 /camper. **paid** by Nov 30\*
- \$740 /camper. paid after Dec 1

- **March 15<sup>th</sup> – RYLA Club Sponsorship Ends**

- **April 15<sup>th</sup> – RYLA Camper Registration Ends**

- **June 15<sup>th</sup> – Club volunteer forms due**

- Online Submission
- Drivers, Meal volunteers, etc

- **June 28<sup>th</sup> – Camp begins – deliver campers (9am - 11am)**

- **July 3<sup>th</sup> – Camp ends – pick up campers. 1pm**

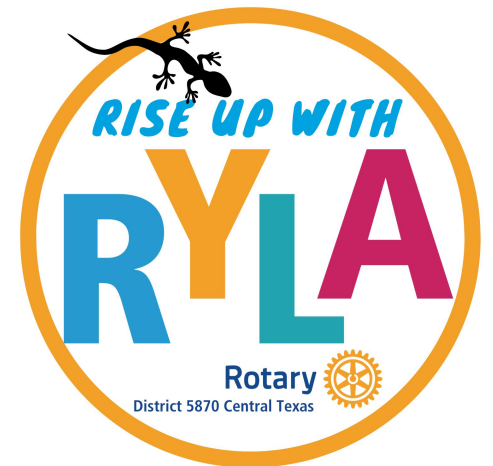
- 11:30 Closing ceremony (optional)



# IMPORTANT DATES - deadlines subject to change

RYLA Timeline 2025-2026	
Date	Task/Deadline
August 9, 2025	RYLA Round Up
September/October 2025	Clubs Promote RYLA to area schools,
<b>November 30, 2025</b>	<b>Club Sponsorship, Early Bird ends.</b>
December 2025	Prospective RYLA Campers - Clubs Identified
January 2026	Interview Students
February 2026	RYLA Campers Selected
<b>March 15, 2026</b>	<b>RYLA Club Sponsorship Ends</b>
<b>April 15, 2026</b>	<b>RYLA Camper Registration Ends</b>
May 2026	Contact Campers twice with Confirmation, Information, and updates
June 2026	Contact Campers Weekly with Information/Confirm Attendance
June 28, 2026	First Day of Camp: Drop campers off between 9am and 11am
July 3, 2026	Last Day of Camp: Pick-Up Campers by 1pm

Early Bird: Save \$25 / Camper

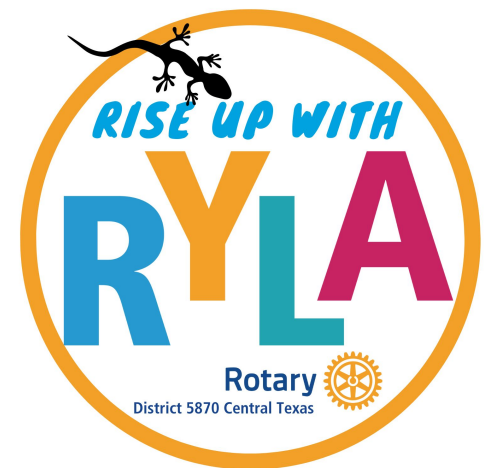


# IMPORTANT DATES - deadlines subject to change

## RYLA Timeline 2025-2026

Date	Task/Deadline
August 9, 2025	RYLA Round Up
September/October 2025	Clubs Promote RYLA to area schools,
November 30, 2025	Club Sponsorship, Early Bird ends.
December 2025	Prospective RYLA Campers - Clubs Identified
January 2026	Interview Students
February 2026	RYLA Campers Selected
March 15, 2026	RYLA Club Sponsorship Ends
April 15, 2026	RYLA Camper Registration Ends
May 2026	Contact Campers twice with Confirmation, Information, and updates
June 2026	Contact Campers Weekly with Information/Confirm Attendance
June 28, 2026	First Day of Camp: Drop campers off between 9am and 11am
July 3, 2026	Last Day of Camp: Pick-Up Campers by 1pm

## Camper Selection Process



# RESOURCE REVIEW



About ▾

Events ▾

Mem

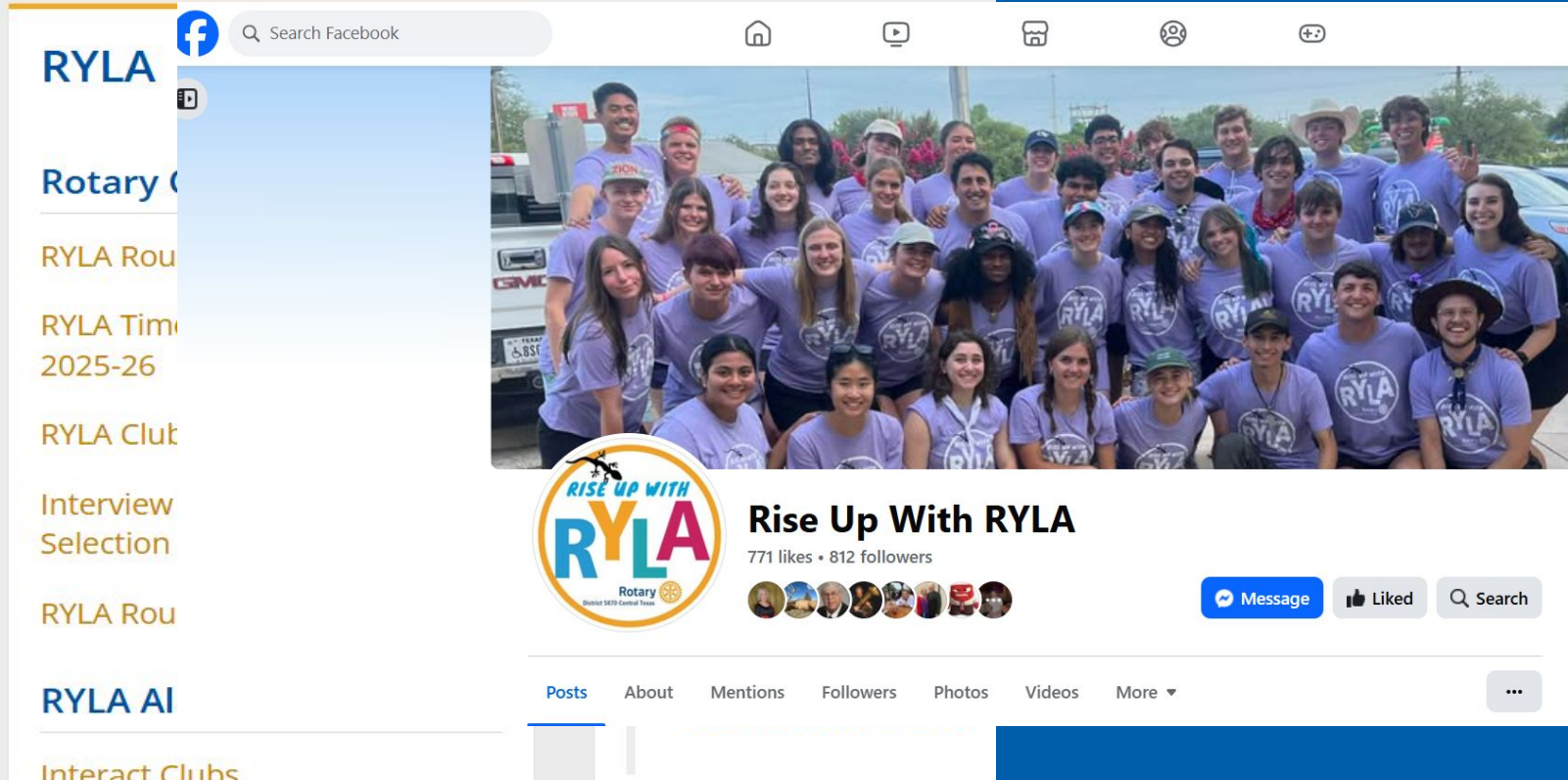
## Rise Up With RYLA

District 5870 > Youth > RYLA

<https://rotarydistrict5870.org/sitepage/ryla>

Facebook: Rise up with RYLA

[www.facebook.com/RYLA5870](http://www.facebook.com/RYLA5870)





# CONCLUSION

## Share AHA - MOMENTS

- Ideas - What do you want to do next?
- Success Stories
- RYLA Recruitment



# QUESTIONS?

Cathy Keagy

Rotary District 5870 Central Texas – RYLA Chair (Camp Director)

913-406-8847

[ryla5870.chair@gmail.com](mailto:ryla5870.chair@gmail.com)

# Rose, Bud, Thorn Analysis

RYLA 2025

Cathy Keagy, RYLA Camp Director, District 5870



# RYLA 2025 Post Event Observation Survey Results

Thinking back on our RYLA 2025 Experience consider what worked, what we could do better, and what we should stop doing.

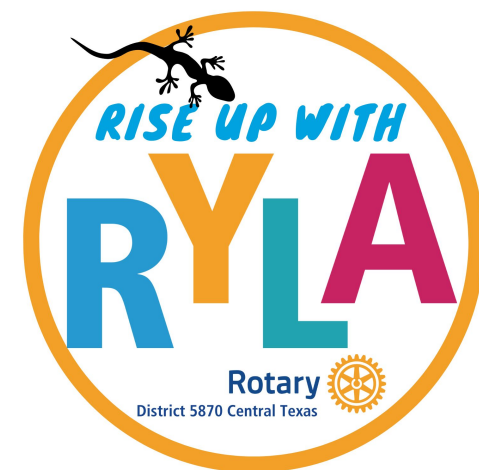
75 RYLA Campers  
**37 Rotary Clubs**

41 RYLA Staff  
**215 Volunteers**

Responses n = 34  
**Rotarians n = 28**

## Volunteer Roles

- Transportation – 15
- Meals – 6
- RYLA Staff – 4
- Registration – 2
- Speaker – 2
- Other – Trailers – 2
- Observers / Rotary Presence – 1
- RYLA Director – 1
- RYLA Registrar – 1

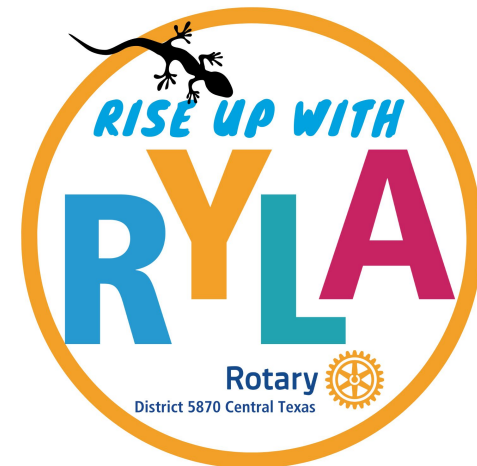


# Rose, Bud, Thorn Analysis

 Rose - Things that worked really well (Very Positive)

 Bud - Areas that need to be optimized (Opportunity for Improvement)

 Thorn - Things that are not working or need to be removed entirely  
(Stop doing, may result in new Buds)





# Rose – What Worked REALLY Well

(Things to continue)

- **Amazon Wish List & Online Registration** – Streamlined logistics and supplies.
- **Rise Against Hunger Project** – Widely praised as meaningful and effective.
- **YMCA Meals & Rotary Volunteers** – Received multiple positive mentions.
- **Sign-Up Genius for Transportation** – Helpful for smooth camper drop-off/pick-up.



# Rose – What Worked REALLY Well

## Summary

(Things to **continue**)

- **Operational elements (Amazon Wish List, Registration, YMCA Meals)**
- **Volunteer engagement** and leadership continuity





# Bud – Areas to Optimize

(Things to **keep** but **improve**)

- **Peace Projects** – Valuable, but need clearer goals, structure, and follow-up.
- **Registration Process** – Suggested improvements include labeled bags and an A–Z check-in system.
- **Volunteer Coordination & Communication** – Needs better clarity and responsiveness.
- **Rotary Signage** – More signs for orientation, drop-off, meals, etc.
- **Laundry & Meals** – More organization, direction sheets, and volunteer help.
- **Social Media Updates** – Daily posts appreciated; consider assigning a dedicated media volunteer.

## **Bud – Areas to Optimize**

### **Summary**

(Things to **keep** but **improve**)

- **Volunteer coordination** and meal/laundry logistics could improve
- **Social media** updates and safety processes need standardization
- **Registration and signage** suggestions to streamline arrival

## **Thorn – Things to Stop Doing**

(Things to **eliminate**)

- **Use of Amazon Gift Cards** – Prefer using Amazon Business account directly.
- **Holiday Week Camp Timing** – 4th of July week seen as disruptive.
- **Phone Collection/Return Process** – Needs clearer, more efficient protocols.
- **Campers with Significant Behavior Challenges** – Mixed feedback; suggests clearer screening or alternative program.

# Thorn – Things to Stop Doing


## Summary

(Things to **eliminate**)

- **Technical processes (phone collection, Amazon gift cards) need overhaul**
- **Inclusion and behavior challenges require better planning**


# What Next?

Based on what we've received what areas do we need to prioritize for improvement and next steps.

 Bud – Areas to Optimize	Next Steps	Responsible Area
Peace Projects and Trek need refinement and clearer outcomes		
Volunteer coordination and meal/laundry logistics could improve		
Social media updates and safety processes need standardization		
Registration and signage suggestions to streamline arrival		

# What Next?

Based on what we've received what areas do we need to prioritize to eliminate and next steps.

 Thorn – Things to Stop Doing	Next Steps	Responsible Area
Staff decision-making while fatigued		
Holiday week scheduling and unnecessary camper structure (like time awareness)		
Technical processes (phone collection, Amazon gift cards) need overhaul		
Inclusion and behavior challenges require better planning		