

By Wayne Steen/West Liberty

Iowa RYLA 2020 Conference Chair

We need Rotarian volunteers for Iowa RYLA 2020. Due to some past Rotarian volunteers' retirements and some moving out of state we need you to volunteer for Iowa RYLA 2020. It will be one of the best weeks of your life! You will work with 240 of the most outstanding high school students throughout the state of Iowa.

Rotarian volunteers will take part in Pre-Iowa RYLA training that will take place on Saturday, June 20 at Grinnell College. Rotarian volunteers will then take part at Iowa RYLA from Saturday, July 18, through Friday, July 24 at Grinnell College. We will let you know your exact arrival times for the week of Iowa RYLA 2020.

Rotarian volunteer applications are currently available at iowaryla.org. This is an outstanding opportunity for you to make a difference in the lives of our youth. Make sure you click the link to the Rotarian volunteer application.

As a Rotarian you will work with a Team Leader and help the Team Leader lead a team of 12 high school students. Your week will be busy and you will leave with a lifetime of great memories and a strong sense of accomplishment. You will help 12 high school students become leaders in their high school days and beyond.

As a Rotarian volunteer you will receive free room and meals for the week of RYLA. You will also get to enjoy some outstanding speakers who will come to RYLA, and be involved in fun and exciting team building exercises. It will be a week in which you will help be a positive catalyst for 12 youths and bring a renewed optimism in how great our youth are in Iowa. We talk of "RYLA magic" and you will find out that RYLA magic is real!

RYLArians (Conferees)

Applications for the conferees to attend Iowa RYLA are also available at iowaryla.org. Make sure the conferee clicks on the appropriate link to the conferees' applications on the Iowa RYLA website. The Conferees (RYLArians) will arrive Sunday, July 19 and depart Friday at noon on July, 24. Each conferee will be contacted by their team leader approximately two weeks before RYLA for all of the specific details of what the conferees need to bring to RYLA.

Some reasons for high school students to want to attend RYLA:

- **Foster and develop** leadership skills;
- **Establish a greater appreciation** of "Service Above Self" and other values of Rotary;
- **Engage in activities** to increase cultural competency;

- **Create close connections** with other students from across Iowa.

Head counselors

This year RYLA will be headed by two outstanding Head Counselors, Ben Stutting and Ally O'Meara, both are students at the University of Iowa. They will lead this year's RYLA.

This year's Iowa RYLA Conference Chair is Wayne Steen of the Rotary Club of West Liberty (District 6000) and the Iowa RYLA chair elect is David Kutter of Cedar Rapids (District 5970).

Ally O'Meara is a second-year student at the University of Iowa double majoring in marketing and finance. She is a graduate of Indianola High School. When Ally is not studying, she stays active in AKPsi, tutoring at the writing center, working as a caterer and involved at the Newman Center. Ally has loved being a team leader at RYLA 2018 and 2019.

Ben Stutting is a second-year student at the University of Iowa double majoring in History along with Ethics and Public Policy. He is a member of Dance Marathon at Iowa and a CAMBUS driver. Ben is a graduate of North Scott High School and is looking forward to making Iowa RYLA 2020 the best Iowa RYLA ever.

Their goals for Iowa RYLA 2020 are:

- Having an emphasis on the creation and development of leadership skills.
- Increasing our focus on the principles and values of Rotary as a whole.
- Providing conferees with tangibles and resources for post-conference success.

Please come and be a part of Iowa RYLA 2020 and be a part of RYLA magic!