



April 22 to April 26, 2016

**Dear High School Counselor:**

It's RYLA time again! Rotary Clubs throughout southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin are awarding \$335 scholarships to the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp at the beautiful YMCA Camp St. Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin. The dates are from 6:00 pm on Friday April 22 to 1:30 pm on April 26, 2016.

RYLA is the premier weekend intensive leadership training retreat for high school sophomores and juniors to enhance their leadership skills, citizenship and personal growth.

We understand that this involves missing two school days and this should be taken into consideration on the students selected. For our part, we make sure that the time away is well spent in helping the students learn skills that will help them be more productive in school, be good examples and mentors for their cohorts, and grow into responsible citizens.

For a quick view of the RYLA experience, check out the video clips of the camp at [www.campryla.com](http://www.campryla.com).

Some examples of feedback from students past:

*"Through RYLA we discovered that trust is crucial. Through the ropes course it was very evident because you literally could not accomplish anything if you didn't work as a team. But even in simple ways like small group talks, we learned to have great conversations with people we barely knew. By coming to RYLA I learned that with trust and friendship you can make anything happen."*

*"I had a great time on this trip. I was overwhelmed in the beginning because I didn't know anyone and I was never put into a situation like that before, but by the end I was able to make friendships that I hope to keep for the rest of my life. The activities were great, and I learned a lot from them. I am extremely grateful to have been a part of camp RYLA. Thank you guys so much for the opportunity."*

*"I would like to say that RYLA was an incredible, life-changing experience. I was very stressed about my future (where to go to college, what my occupation should be) before coming to RYLA, but RYLA helped me see things from a different perspective and see opportunities that I never thought were possible. Also, RYLA has forever changed how I am going to lead in the future. I learned that leading isn't about having the loudest voice or strongest opinion in the room, but a leader makes everyone feel special, loved, and wanted. I would like to thank all of the coordinators of RYLA for giving me a weekend that I will never forget."*



April 22 to April 26, 2016

### **WHAT WE ASK OF YOU:**

- Communicate with the Rotary Club that is selecting and paying \$335 for the students to attend plus providing transportation (there is no cost to the student)
- Identify and nominate sophomores and/ or juniors from your school to participate in RYLA
- 2016. Identify alternates in case of last minute scheduling conflicts. (Alternates on file can also be used by other sponsoring clubs.)
- Provide application forms to the students; assist the Rotary Club obtain completed forms by deadlines below.

### **WHAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE:**

- Fun and challenging leadership skill-building activities facilitated by high school seniors and college students who participated previously
- Interaction with local and regional business leaders who will lead sessions and demonstrate leadership skills
- Meeting about 100 sophomores and juniors from Minnesota and Wisconsin
- New insights, friends, and leadership development that will impact the rest of their lives

### **SUGGESTED SELECTION CRITERIA:**

#### **REQUIRED SELECTION CRITERIA:**

- Students participation is restricted to HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE AND JUNIORS who plan to complete their senior year at school
- Selection(s) SHOULD include an equal number of male and female Sophomore and Junior High students from the participating high schools
- Each participating student MUST have potential or established leadership skills.
- Each participant MUST be a FULL TIME student
- Be committed to attend the ENTIRE weekend - no late arrivals/early releases

allowed \*

*\*We can make limited arrangements for late arrivals on Friday or early departure on Tuesday.*



April 22 to April 26, 2016

**OTHER SELECTION CRITERIA:**

Although we encourage flexibility in your selection criteria, please consider the following qualities as a guide to selecting your student representative(s):

- Superior citizenship qualities
- Quality and/or significance of participant's extra curricular activities
- Academic Honors or Awards
- Current and Recent Student Leadership Positions
- Work Experience
- High moral character
- Cooperative and willing to participate as a member of a group
- Informed about current events

**TIMELINE:**

Nomination forms are due March 15 to clubs.

Selected students will be notified by the clubs. Depending on the number of applicants, some may be placed on a wait list.

Selected students will be notified and provided a link to fill out an electronic registration.

After confirmation of the registration, an information packet will be sent to the students. Parental release forms and a medical history form are included in that packet and must be filled out and returned.



April 22 to April 26, 2016

## RYLA 2016 NOMINATION FORM

To be completed and SIGNED BY STUDENT AND PARENT.

You can complete on your computer or print legibly.

Return to high school counselor by March 15. Selected students will be notified with additional information and registration materials. Additional information is also available at [www.campryla.com](http://www.campryla.com). All fees for this workshop are paid for by the Rotary Club.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent /Guard. Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student Hobbies/Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Clubs/Sports/Music Participation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_



April 22 to April 26, 2016

Student Honors and/or Awards: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Why I want to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program:

---

---

---

---

I agree to participate in RYLA Camp, April 22 to 26, 2016, for the entire weekend. I agree to notify the local, sponsoring Rotary Club Contact no later than April 1, 2016 if I cannot attend so that another student can be selected to take my place and the sponsoring Rotary Club will not lose its money.

Signed by Student \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Parent \_\_\_\_\_



April 22 to April 26, 2016

## **Instructions for Rotary Clubs**

Camp Dates are APRIL 22 (dinner) to April 26 (lunch).

Arrival at Camp St. Croix, in Hudson, WI.

Departure from the International in downtown St. Paul (home of St. Paul Rotary and formerly the Crowne Plaza)

### **Registration Process:**

Information is available at [www.campryla.com](http://www.campryla.com) . All the forms and information will be posted there, although it is not all there right now.

Fill out preregistration Survey Monkey. This form allows us to pencil in the number of students attending so we can make sure we have enough staff. (February)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/85V233T> (link also at campryla.com)

Find your students. We have a nomination form that you can use, but it is optional for use. Ultimately, the selection of students is up to their sponsoring club. The nomination form also has most of the information needed for registration.

Register your students on the registration Survey Monkey (link at campryla.com). The easiest thing for you would be to email the link to the registration site. The students can fill it out themselves, which would help us make sure there is accurate contact information. You could fill it in yourself based on the nomination form, which would be helpful for your student if they do not have reliable internet access.

When students get registered, we will email forms, and more information, to them to fill out. These are also available at campryla.com. The forms are:

- ✓ Rotary permission
- ✓ Medical history
- ✓ YMCA release

The forms can be emailed, faxed or mailed; email is preferred. They can be brought to camp- but they have to have them signed and it would be better if they sent them in advance. If a parent drops the student off, they can sign then, as well, if needed.



April 22 to April 26, 2016

Clubs are responsible for their student's transportation. This can be accomplished by:

- Rotarians who have been through the district's youth protection policy can drive them to camp;
- Parents can drive their kids to camp.

Students cannot drive themselves.

After April 4, if we have not heard back from you, we may give out some of the reserved space to others waiting.

For a cancellation after April 11, we can refund 50%. After April 18, we cannot offer a refund of fees. However, you can:

- Find a substitute;
- Sponsor a student from another club (we often know of a few);
- Sponsor a St. Paul student from a disadvantaged neighborhood (we can get a lot more students than we can fund, with sufficient notice).

Email: [mnryla@gmail.com](mailto:mnryla@gmail.com)

Both Brianna (current Director) and Steve (past Director) have access to this account.