

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference
Rotary District 6440
Application Form
(Due back to sponsoring Rotary Club no later than February 15, 2009)

Applicant Name: _____
(Please Print)

**Student;
Please Choose One Weekend**

Session I: March 12-15, 2009 _____

Session II: April 9-12, 2009 _____

It may be necessary to balance participation in the two weekends.
If so could you attend either weekend? _____ Yes _____ No

Male/Female _____ **Grade in School** _____ **Age** _____

Home Address: _____
Number *Street*

City *State* *Zip Code*

Parent/Guardian: _____
Name (Please Print)

High School: _____ **Counselor:** _____

School Address: _____
Name *Street* *City* *State* *Zip*

Phone Numbers:
Home _____ Emergency _____ School _____
Please include area codes with the above numbers

- OVER -

Background Information: (Use additional sheet of paper if necessary)

What leadership positions have you held? Give your group or organization name, position held and dates.

Student Essay:

Attach to this application for a short essay, no more than 500 words, on the importance of youth leadership in a free society.

Recommendation

This certifies that we recommend the above student and understand that, if selected, this student will attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) conference held at Camp Edwards in East Troy, WI. Conference will begin on a Thursday evening through Sunday morning of March 12-15 2009 or April 9-12, 2009 of the weekend selected.

Principal or Authorized School Signature & Date

Counselor Signature and Date

Student Agreement:

If I am selected to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference, I agree to abide by all rules and regulations established by the sponsors and I will arrive to contribute my best efforts toward the success of the program.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

The following is to be completed by the sponsoring Rotary Club

Please Note, return this completed application to; **RYLA District Chairman, Sean Nelson 22w713 Tamarack Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137 for receipt not later than March 1, 2009.** This *application must be accompanied with a check* payable to Rotary District 6440 for **\$325** per participant.

Sponsoring Rotary Club _____

Club Chairman _____

Address _____ City _____

November 15, 2008

Dear Rotary Club RYLA Chairman or Club President,

Enclosed are the materials for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference (RYLA) 2008. Also enclosed; the RYLA brochure, schedule for RYLA sessions, registration materials and a page called the "RYLA Process" so you know exactly how everything works should you be new to this position.

The RYLA Conference Dates are March 12-15 & April 9-12 2009

What do you need to do now? You have a couple choices,

1. Send the information to your local high schools if you intend on sponsoring any students.
2. Get information (name, phone number, and addresses) of any of the schools in your town/city/village and get that information to me and I will contact the schools and secure qualified students on your Rotary Club's behalf.

The RYLA program has been extremely popular in our district and this year's program promises to be even more; educational, motivating and popular than in years past! I sincerely, hope your club will participate in our district's RYLA program by sponsoring a few students from your local high schools. If your club does participate, I personally guarantee your club will feel that it is one of the most rewarding things your club will do this year! Our district has arguably the best RYLA program in the nation!

Participants will come away from the RYLA program; motivated, energized, confident and better educated to be leaders in their community and at their schools. We again have some absolutely amazing speakers coming back to speak to the participants.

We have a new speaker this year who currently has a book on the best seller list nationwide! Rotary District 6440 is truly changing lives and having a significant positive impact on the lives of the future leaders in our district! PLEASE consider investing in the lives of our future leaders by sending a few students from your community to RYLA 2009. I PROMISE you and your club will find it one of the most rewarding things your club will do this year.

Sincerely

Sean Nelson
RYLA Chairman
Rotary District 6440

**2009 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
Conference Program - Agenda for both Sessions.
Session I – March 12-15 & Session II April 9-12**

Thursday March 12 & April 9

7:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Arrive by Coach Bus- Settle in	Assigned Rooms
8:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Snack & Social	Micklewright Lodge
8:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Announcements	Micklewright Lodge
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Small Group Meetings	Various Locations
10:00 p.m.	To Assigned Rooms	
11:00 p.m.	Lights out	

Friday March 13 & April 10

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Micklewright Lodge
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Ice Breaker	Micklewright Lodge
9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Presentation # 1 <i>Mr. Rick Metzger</i>	Runge Lodge
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Small Group Meetings	Various Locations
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Micklewright Lodge
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Team Building	Stations in Woods
1:45 – 4:30 p.m.	Presentation #2 – <i>Mr. Rick Metzger</i>	Runge Lodge
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Small Group Meetings	Various Locations
5:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Dinner	Micklewright Lodge
6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	President <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> Visit*	Micklewright Lodge
6:45 – 7:30 p.m.	President <i>Theodore Roosevelt</i> Visit*	Micklewright Lodge
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Skit Preparations	Various Locations
9:00 – 9:45 p.m.	Camp Fire & Smores	Outdoor Amphitheatre
9:45 – 11:00 p.m.	Free Time	
11:00 – 12:00 p.m.	To Assigned Rooms	
12:00 Midnight	Lights out	

Saturday March 14 & April 11

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Micklewright Lodge
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Ice Breaker	Micklewright Lodge
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Presentation #3 <i>Ms. Mia Fontain</i>	Runge Lodge
11:00 – 12:00 a.m.	Small Groups Meetings	Various Locations
12:00 – 12:30 a.m.	Lunch	Micklewright Lodge
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Team Building	Low Ropes Courses
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Presentation #4 <i>Mr. Les Green</i>	Micklewright Lodge
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Small Group Meetings	Various Locations
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Free Time	
5:30 –6:00 p.m.	Dinner	Micklewright Lodge
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Skit Preparations	
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Skit Performances	Micklewright Lodge
9:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Dance (DJ)	Micklewright Lodge
12:00 – 1:00 a.m.	Room Time	
1:00 a.m.	Lights out	

Sunday March 15 & April 12

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Micklewright Lodge
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	What is Rotary	Micklewright Lodge
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Wrap Up/Closing Comments	Micklewright Lodge
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Pack for Home/Departure	Outside Runge Lodge

Dear RYLA Chairman/Club President, School Administrator or Parent,

There are as always two weekends in which your sponsored student has to choose from. Both weekends are exactly alike. Session I will be March 12-15 2008 & Session II will be April 9-12 2009. Students from the same school may attend either weekend of their choosing. No two students will be in the same small group at the camp. This is intentional.

RYLA has been established by Rotary International as a special award for young people of high school age who have displayed leadership skills, or the potential, as shown by their active participation in groups or services. Each participant is from Rotary District 6440. Participants will be involved in a three day program held at Edwards Camp & Conference Center in East Troy Wisconsin. We have exclusive use of the camp both weekends. The three day program includes motivational and educational speakers from around the United States. One of which is the greatest speaker I have ever witnessed or heard! We also have a current best selling author coming this year! The program will greatly enhance leadership skills through lectures, hands on activities and recreational activities and interaction with other student leaders from around the District.

The cost to Rotary Clubs is **\$325** per student. This fee includes; coach bus transportation to and from the conference, (there are eight different bus pick up and drop off locations per weekend) room & board, meals, speaker fees, staffing, night security, snacks, supplies, RYLA tee shirt, and complimentary photo and video DVD of their weekend (handed out on Sunday morning). Students who attend RYLA are expected to speak at the sponsoring Rotary Club sometime within the following few months after their attendance.

Once selected students have been chosen by the Rotary Club or by their school and I receive their approved application, I will send them an Acceptance Packet. Inside the acceptance packet is: a letter confirming they have been accepted, a list of what to bring to camp, expectations letter, transportation information/memo's, full agenda for the weekend, camp map, and some other basic information. All transportation issues and other needs may be handled directly with me.

Every single participant (more than 970 over the last six years) has rated the camp. The average score over the last five years is an amazing 9.6 out of 10 based on educational content and fun. Yes, fun is an element of this experience! This is both an educational experience as well as a reward for leadership skills already demonstrated. I can guarantee every person who attends, regardless of their intentions, leaves motivated, energized and better educated to lead! Need more information? Feel free to call me anytime at (630)688-5165.

Sincerely,

Sean Nelson
RYLA Chairman
Rotary District 6440

Most Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get students from the local high schools?

Simply forward the information I send to you on to the local schools guidance offices, A call in advance or an in person drop off can and will help you pinpoint exactly who to send/give the information to. Schools familiar with RYLA are very interested in getting the information. Schools who have never sent students may be hesitant to respond, they simply do not know what a great program we have. If you are unable or unsure of what to do or who to contact call me anytime at (630)688-5165

Who is Eligible?

Any high school aged student in our district, freshman through senior. They do not have to possess any specific qualification or grade point. Most students who attend tend to be heavily involved in their school or community, although this is not the case in every individual. Anyone/Everyone who attends will get a lot out of the conference.

Can I send My Son/Daughter or our exchange student? – Yes!

How do students get to the camp?

We provide coach bus transportation. I will send all accepted students a packet of information about the conference including; speaker information, what to bring and wear, what to expect, conduct codes, medical release form and a transportation memo listing bus pick up sites. There is two pieces of information in the packet the student has to get back to me so I know where they are getting picked up and who to contact in case of an emergency.

How much is the conference?

The cost increased slightly this year to \$325 per student. However when you consider all that is offered and done over the three days and nights it is quite an amazing bargain! Let me emphasize that the speakers are amazing and the quote I hear most often is “life changing experience”!

Where is the RYLA Conference?

We have exclusive use of Camp Edwards YMCA Camp and Conference in East Troy Wisconsin, (Near Alpine Valley). Camp Edwards is a great venue that allows to use low ropes courses, Separate housing for the boys and girls, great food, lodges and outdoor team problem solving stations and a lot more.

Who is in charge? Who watches the kids?

We have a ratio of one adult group facilitator per eight participants. We also have a night security person who patrols the camp all night. His security role is twofold. This is in addition to myself, the camp staff and one of the professional speakers who spends the entire weekend with us just helping out. The camp is very isolated and secure.

We have a conflict, can I pick my son/daughter up early or late, can I bring them back?

Absolutely, this is their weekend you may come late or leave early. (They will not want to, trust me!). In the past students have been picked up and returned to the camp there is not problem with this. However, do not miss Friday morning or afternoon if possible. We have honestly the world’s greatest speaker on Fridays and they will not want to miss him.

Can I come see my son/daughter and observe the camp? I would be honored to have any parent or Rotarian come and stay as long as they like. You will be glad you did.

Send Completed Applications To:

Sean Nelson
RYLA Chairman Rotary District 6440
22W713 Tamarack Drive
Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137

Questions, Comments, Concerns?
snelson@ymcachgo.org or
(630)688-5165

Remember;
Checks must accompany applications
(Made out to Rotary District 6440)
Cost is \$325 per student

RYLA 2009 Critical Dates to Remember

December –

Please provide the flyers and applications for RYLA to your Local High Schools. If you need more, please contact me.

Early January –

Please follow up with schools to confirm they received the materials and have distributed the information to students.

Mid January –

Students are to complete applications by the end of January. Please pick up completed applications from schools.

February –

All registration materials and checks sent to Sean Nelson for receipt **NO LATER THAN** February 29, 2009

****It is extremely important that the schools get this information in early December. The students who attend RYLA tend to be extremely busy and need as much advance notice as possible.

The RYLA Process – made easy:

1. I send you or your club the packet of information, including applications.
2. Decide about how many students your club is willing to sponsor to attend RYLA.
3. In November, forward all registration materials to your local high schools. If they have not participated in RYLA before, be sure to notify them in advance that the materials are forthcoming and the nature of the conference. If you are uncomfortable doing this, let me know and I will be happy to talk with them.
4. It is important to let the schools know how many students your club is sponsoring. This is important so that the students and school understand in advance this is a selection process and some students may not be selected. Some clubs only sponsor a couple of students, do not inform the schools of this and receive dozens of applications. While this is not necessarily a bad thing, it does make the selection process more difficult (not only for the club – who usually selects the students, but also for the students not selected).
5. Students are to submit completed applications to their schools by the end of January. Please contact the schools the last week of January to ensure you receive the completed applications ASAP. If the schools are not responsive, please let me know and I will contact them. Some schools simply do not understand the nature of Rotary and/or RYLA so they are hesitant to promote the program. Schools familiar with the program in our district “aggressively” recruit students. They know this is a fantastic experience for their students.
6. Once you receive the completed applications, make a copy for yourself and mail the applications **and check** to cover enrollment to me for receipt **no later than February 29, 2009**. Payments for RYLA **must** be received with the applications. Checks should be made out to Rotary District 6440 for the number of students you are sponsoring. **Cost of the three day all inclusive conference is \$325.00 per student/participant.**¹
7. I will send your club a confirmation with the names of the students you are sponsoring and the session of RYLA they are attending. However, I encourage you to keep the information on the students you sponsor so that they can come back and give a presentation at your club regarding their experience.
8. At this point, you are finished. I will notify each applicant they have been accepted to attend and get them all the necessary information.
9. It will be up to you to contact the students your club sponsored to ask them to come back and speak about their experience and what they got out of RYLA.

Note: If your company/business would like to sponsor one of the professional speakers at RYLA, please contact me. If you would like to donate fun “take-aways,” those are welcome as well. We need all support! Any Questions? Please call me (Sean Nelson) at any time: 630-688-5165

¹ If a registered student cancels prior to his/her scheduled attendance, I will try to fill the spot with an alternate, or you can propose one. However, given the fact we will already have incurred expenses (i.e., to the camp and for hiring staff at an 8 to 1 ratio), we are not able to provide clubs with a refund for no-shows or cancellations.