

VIRTUAL



RYLA 5170
Chairperson's Guide

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

EXPERIENCE 2021



June 16 – 19, 2021

Table of Contents

Administrative Contacts	2
Dates to Remember	2
Selecting Potential RYLA Applicants	3
Applicants Must Agree to these Items to be Accepted	4
Ways to Find RYLA Candidates	4
What, When, Where, and How of RYLA	5
Selection Timeline.....	5
Interview Information for Proposed Candidates.....	6
Interviewing Proposed Applicants	7
Sample Interview Questions	8
Next Steps (IMPORTANT)	9
Orientation Meeting	10

Administrative Contacts

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Dates to Remember

January 31, 2021 Reservation for 2021 submitted (Chair Info, Number of Campers, and Fee Transmittal)

February 15, 2021 Deadline to submit payment for campers. Any fees received after this date will be subject to a late fee and risk forfeiture of camper spots.

March 1, 2021 Begin camper selection. Online Camper Registration goes live and RYLA chairs will be emailed a registration link.

May 15, 2021 Deadline for Campers to complete online Camper Registration

Selecting Potential RYLA Applicants

It is important for your club's RYLA committee to identify students who will truly benefit from the experience and will be leaders on their return to school. While current leaders in Interact are the obvious choice, the RYLA program has proven to be a driving force in growth and founding of new Interact Clubs. Participation by non-Interact members, especially in schools without Interact Clubs, will prove beneficial in growing Interact membership.

Your Rotary Club RYLA Committee should follow these District guidelines. For applicants to be eligible for participation, they must:

Be a high school Freshman-Junior, who will return to high school the fall following camp.

Have demonstrated leadership experience and/or potential as shown by active participation in school or community youth groups.

Be of high moral character.

Be cooperative and willing to participate at RYLA as a member of a group.

Have an open mind and desire to grow.

Each Rotary Club should try and submit an equal number of male and female campers. Males are historically more difficult to recruit.

Due to RYLA 2021 being virtual, please ensure that your campers have access to a computer or cell phone and internet service during camp.

Each club may have their own process for selecting campers. The following are strong suggestions to support with a strong and diverse camper selection pool.

Applicants Must Agree to the Following:

1. Timely completion of camper registration.
2. To abide by all camp rules as outlined in the online registration.

3. Accepted applicants should commit to attending all RYLA activities throughout the duration of camp.
4. Meeting your club's requirements for participation. This may include an Orientation Meeting for accepted applicants and their families. This typically occurs in late May. RYLA participants may also be asked to attend your Rotary Club meeting to share their experiences following Camp RYLA. Check in with selected campers prior to the meeting to think about what RYLA has meant to them, what difference will it make to their life? The Club President and RYLA Chair may use this opportunity to present RYLA certificates. Any Rotarians who served as facilitators may also make a presentation on their experience at RYLA. See if you can highlight students in social media outlets or club correspondence.

Ways to Find RYLA Candidates

1. Provide information at your regular weekly meeting. Many Rotarians know outstanding young people within the community.
2. Make a presentation to Interact club members. Some clubs may give preference to the Interact President-Elect.
3. Contact students that have attended RYLA in the past to spread the word among the current sophomores and juniors about this great program. Provide them with information to pass on to their friends and acquaintances.
4. Participation by Non-Interact members, especially in schools without Interact Clubs, will prove beneficial in growing Interact membership. Send a letter to the principal of all the high schools within your area. Identify schools that other clubs are not approaching, and avoid overlapping efforts.
5. Extend your search for applications to leaders at local high schools by seeking out the ASB advisor, Band Director, Athletic Coaches, Club Advisors, Counselors, Leadership classes, and AVID programs. Wherever there is an all girls school there is probably an all boys school.
6. Clubs should also seek individual applications through scouting at organizations like community athletic programs, churches, and junior achievement organizations ([Students Rising Above](#), [Girls Who Code](#), [SMASH](#))
7. Post the opportunity on your club's website, social media or other online outlets.

What, When, Where and How of RYLA

What: A four day virtual Leadership Experience designed to bring out the leader in everyone. RYLA teaches participants appropriate ethics skills, starting with the fundamentals of our “Four Way Test.” Most of our counselors are former campers; typically still in college or early careers. Counselors and staff are truly dedicated to RYLA and aspire to become future Rotarians. All of the staff are volunteers and spend a week of their vacation time because they love and believe in this program. Their passion shows to campers the value that Rotary brings to our communities and the world. We owe our volunteers a huge thank you for their time and commitment.

When: June 16th – June 19th, 2021

Where: Online

How: All expenses are paid by the sponsoring Rotary Club.

Selection Timeline

Each Rotary club is different regarding the date at which they set a deadline for potential campers must return their “Interview Information for Proposed Candidates” form to your Chairperson. Some clubs say mid-January and other clubs say late-March or later. It should be within the February/March timeframe so that interviews and selection is not past mid-March.

It is encouraged that you have a selection committee interview the candidate(s).

It's very important for both Rotarians and Campers to show that we care through interviewing.

At every stage of the selection process, be mindful of not only selecting demonstrated leaders, but potential leaders who could benefit from the growth opportunities at RYLA. The following sample questions may help you identify both demonstrated and potential leaders.

This page is only a Sample.

Interview Information for Proposed Candidates

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Telephone : _____

School: _____ GPA: _____ Telephone : _____

Questions:

1. Tell us about yourself.
2. What school activities do you participate in?
3. What non-school activities are you involved in?
4. If I were to talk to your teachers, would they know you? What would they say about you?
5. If I were to talk to your fellow classmates, what would they say about you?
6. Of all the things you have done this year, what has been the most rewarding to you?
7. What leadership positions have you held or will hold?
8. Have you ever received any awards? (If so, what awards?)
9. What career plans do you have?
10. Why would you like to attend RYLA?

Please return this questionnaire to your local Rotary Club RYLA Chairperson

Interviewing Proposed Applicants

The process of interviewing proposed applicants is as follows:

The Committee reviews the Interview Information and determines who will be interviewed.

Unless there is an excessive number of applicants, consideration should be given to interview all students. There is a benefit and learning experience for the students who go through this process.

Your Club RYLA Committee Members should review the twenty sample questions and prioritize the ones that each wants to ask. The whole committee then works on the final selection process of questions that will be asked of every student. Ideally select 4-5 questions.

Arrange for an appropriate time and place for conducting the RYLA interviews; typically during the first few weeks in March.

Email, or send a letter to, each student notifying them of the day, time, and location of interviews.

Allow 10 - 15 minutes for each interview. Each student should be asked the same questions. Each interviewer grades the responses and some quality attribute.

After the interviews, the RYLA Committee discusses then selects which applicants they choose to send to camp, and the alternates if one or two applicants back out last minute. It is common for applicants to change their minds for various reasons.

Send emails to students who were selected for participation.

Send emails to students who were selected as alternates for participation.

Send emails to students who were rejected for participation.

It's your option if you choose to send emails to each school notifying the Principal and school contacts of the results of the selection process. Feel free to invite these people to a Rotary meeting.

Sample Interview Questions (Select 4-5 questions.)

1. What are your plans for next year?
2. Five years from now?
3. Who has been the most important person in your life?
4. If you were trying to convince a new company to relocate in your town, what are three positive features of the community you would stress?
5. What are your three most important values?
6. If you could make one change affecting your High School, what would it be?
7. Outside your family and friends, whom do you most respect?
8. Describe a time where you overcame a difficult situation in your life.
9. What is the most important issue presently facing the President and Congress?
10. What is the last book you read for fun?
11. What are your feelings about the grade requirements for participation in extracurricular activities?
12. Outside of your classes, what activity has been the most important in terms of your personal growth?
13. What makes a good leader?
14. Why are ethics important in leadership?
15. Who do you know that you feel is an outstanding leader and why?
16. If five candidates - including you - are equally qualified, why should you be the one selected for RYLA?
17. If you had the power and money to do something good for mankind, what would it be and why?
18. As a teenager what do you see as your role in the community? (e.g. setting examples, community service)
19. Name your hero or role model you look up to, and tell us why he/she is important to you.
20. Name one thing that you have done that made you feel good about yourself.

After each interview, ask the proposed applicant if they can:

1. Be at camp the entire time (June 16th– June 19th)
2. Attend the Orientation Meeting (Have a date pre-planned before you ask)

3. Attend your Rotary Club meeting following camp

Next Steps (IMPORTANT)

1. Determine if your club is planning to have an Orientation Meeting. If so, schedule a date and send out the request for all parents and selected participants.
2. By February 1st all Rotary Club RYLA Chair's will be emailed directly a link to distribute to all selected campers. Only selected 2019 RYLA campers should be given this link. All RYLA Chairs will be notified by April 30th of their campers registration status and able to verify correct candidates.

As Rotarians it is your responsibility to get your selected campers the proper information so that they are registered and prepared for camp. RYLA Support Staff is making all efforts to make information as accessible as possible via the [RYLA 5170 Website](#), so be sure to inform your campers of this resource from the beginning. Rotarian and camper information is available and communicates all steps that need to be followed in order to deliver a successful application.

1. Campers must complete the online registration according to the directions provided by the Rotarian.

Orientation Meeting (optional)

Some clubs have an Orientation Meeting to introduce all of the participants and parents to Rotary and the RYLA program. This meeting is as much for parents as it is for campers. The campers get to learn a little more and parents feel safe and more informed about knowing where their children are going for a week. Organize your RYLA Orientation meeting at an appropriate time (late April/early May).

Who should consider attending:

Rotary Club President

Youth Service Chair

RYLA Chairperson for your club

RYLA Committee members

Two RYLA Campers from the previous year (they really give energy to the meeting)

This is the time to be sure that All Registration is complete from all selected campers.

Orientation Meeting Agenda:

Welcome by RYLA chair with brief overview of purpose of the meeting.

Introduction of all attendees.

Brief overview of Rotary, by Rotary Club President.

Previous RYLA Campers talk (may include [video](#) or pictures)

1. RYLA is limited to ~210 Campers attending – 50/50 Male/Female is goal (35/65 is realistic) including foreign exchange students sponsored by Rotary to our District
2. Leadership skills
3. Speakers
4. Learning experiences
5. Fellowship activities
6. Learn how to work together to achieve a common goal

RYLA Chairperson discusses:

1. What to bring (a pack list is located on our website)
2. Accommodations: camp, share rooms by pre-assignment, 2-8 to a room, beds and linens provided (pillows/sheets/towels), shared bathrooms in each room.
3. Review RYLA Rules of Conduct
4. RYLA Chair is a Rotarian and will be in charge of camp.
5. Ask students to take photos to document their experiences at camp.
6. Campers are required and parents are welcome to visit the Rotary meeting when Campers give their presentation.
7. Parents are NOT allowed to the Rotarian BBQ on Thursday night. This is only for RYLA committee members and Rotarians.
8. Bus time/day/place
9. Review importance of calling the Rotary Club chair (you) if they are unable to attend.