



## ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA) BASICS FOR DELEGATES AND PARENTS

**Welcome to RYLA!** You have been chosen by your local Rotary Club to be a delegate to the District 7600 (central and eastern Virginia) Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference. **RYLA** is an annual two-day conference designed to recognize, encourage, and further develop the leadership skills of selected high school juniors and seniors who have shown a potential for service to their schools and communities.

### Here are some details you'll want to know:

**When?** RYLA will be held President's Day Weekend, February 15 - 16, 2019. Activities will begin with your arrival at 9:00 am Saturday and conclude after dinner Sunday, approximately 5:45 pm.

**Where?** It will be held at the 4H Airfield Center in Wakefield, Virginia.

**How will I get there?** Travel to and from the conference is conference is coordinated by your sponsoring Rotary Club. In some cases parents choose to drive delegates either on their own or by car-pooling. Your sponsor Club will provide directions, or you may go online to: <http://www.airfieldconference.com/location.php>

**What will it cost?** There will be no cost to delegates. Sponsoring Rotary clubs provide scholarships to cover all costs. Rotarians and parents are invited/encouraged to attend the closing lunch and Awards ceremony (at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday) at a cost of \$15 per person.

**What should I bring?** RYLA takes place in a camp environment in February. It is not unusual for it to snow during the conference! **Be prepared for COLD WEATHER!** Here's a quick list of items you might consider bringing:

- Toiletries and personal hygiene items (toothbrush, soap etc.)
- Clothing for cold weather
- Sweatshirt or jacket
- Camp shoes or boots
- There will be physical activity, so bring loose, comfortable clothing.

**The 4-H Conference Center will provide meals, beverages and snacks, bedding and towels.** You'll live in dormitory-like facilities with more than one delegate in each room and shared bathrooms. **There is no need for any cash.**

**Rules and Restrictions:**

- ✓ Delegates are high school **sophomores, juniors or seniors** selected by their sponsoring Rotary Clubs. Each Club can set its own criteria for selection; however, they will not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, religion, or disability.
- ✓ Only delegates who have completed and signed the **RYLA Delegate Registration** form may attend. **Parent signature is also required on the Delegate Form.**
- ✓ Signing the **RYLA Delegate Registration Form** indicates you have read and agreed to the **Code of Conduct** on the registration form for the Conference.
- ✓ Students may **NOT** drive themselves to the Conference.
- ✓ Delegates may not leave the Conference or the conference area without permission.
- ✓ NO delegate cars can park at the Center. It is strongly suggested that you contact your sponsoring Rotary club immediately to ensure travel is arranged.
- ✓ Cell phones are welcome, but use is limited to emergencies during the Conference. The **emergency number** at the Airfield Center is **757-899-4901 (daytime)**. **Conference Chair Leslie Bryant cell is 757-342-8283.**
- ✓ **We will not be responsible for cash and valuables. Leave them at home.**

**What happens at the RYLA Conference?**

RYLA focuses on leadership, service to the community and project planning. Socializing, meeting new friends and having fun are also key elements.

You'll experience daytime programs of stimulating training, discussions and hands-on activities. Evening activities will be social events to include a talent show.

You'll be assigned to a group of your peers, made up of students from different schools to ensure diversity and the opportunity for group building and meeting new friends. Your group will remain as a team for all RYLA activities except for sleeping arrangements. A college-level student – often a past RYLA Delegate – will serve as your group facilitator.

Activity in your group will help you develop your leadership skills and increase your awareness of critical public issues, youth-related community concerns and service opportunities. In your group, you'll also learn first-hand about group dynamics, the way a group works effectively as a team.

Your participation will be evaluated on tasks designed to foster both individual talents and team skills. Group awards will be presented on the last day and will reflect teams' success at working together while fulfilling their tasks.

**Safety and Security: How will RYLA be staffed?**

The Conference location, the Wakefield 4H Center is fully staffed by a professional team. Rotary professionals, qualified lecturers and group interaction leaders from the business, professions and educational communities staff the RYLA Conference.

For the safety and security of all concerned, there is around-the-clock supervision with 24/7 emergency support and availability.

**Reminders:**

- ✓ Contact your sponsoring Rotary Club to arrange transportation to and from RYLA.
- ✓ Prepare yourself for the experience of a lifetime!

The RYLA team is excited to meet you! We look forward to an outstanding RYLA conference.

**Leslie Bryant, RYLA Chair**  
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