

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference
Rotary District 6440
2017 Application Form
Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club

Applicant Name: _____
(Please Print)

Session I March 9-12, 2017 _____

Session II: April 6-9, 2017 _____

Would you be willing or able to switch weekends to insure your attendance at one of the two weekends in order to help us with balancing the attendance for the two weekends?

Yes _____ No _____

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

Home Address: _____
Number _____ *Street* _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip Code* _____

Parent/Guardian: _____
Name (Please Print)

High School: _____ **Counselor:** _____

Email _____
Please print clearly – If there is and underscore in email, print above the line please.

Phone Numbers:

Home _____ Cell _____
Please include area codes with the above numbers

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

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

Student Essay:

Attach to this application a short essay, no more than 500 words, on the importance of youth leadership in 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. The Conference will begin on Thursday evening and continue through Sunday afternoon on the weekends of March 9-12, 2017 or April 6-9, 2017 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 strive to contribute my best effort toward the success of the program.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

AGREEMENT TO REPORT BACK TO SPONSORING CLUB

Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club carefully selected you to receive a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) scholarship. Your feedback is very valuable.

As part of the scholarship you are requested to attend and participate in a special meeting of the Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club devoted to RYLA attendees. At the meeting you will relay your experience at RYLA and the effect it had on you. Your parents are welcome to attend the meeting as a guest.

Student Agreement:

If I am selected to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference, I agree to attend the Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club meeting and relay my experience at RYLA.

Meeting date: Tuesday April 18, 2017 (includes breakfast buffet)

Meeting time: 7:15 AM to 8:30 AM (RYLA portion starts about 8:00)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

**2017 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
Conference Program - Agenda for both sessions**

Session I- March 9-12 & II April 6-9

Thursday March 9 & April 6

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.	Go To Assigned Rooms	Assigned Lodging
11:00 p.m.	Lights out	

Friday March 10 & April 7

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 – 11:30 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.	Break	Various Locations
6:45 – 7:30 p.m.	Presentation #3..... <i>Mr. John Huston*</i>	Micklewright Lodge
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Small Group & Skit Preparations	Various Locations
9:00 – 9:45 p.m.	Campfire & Smores	Outdoor Amphitheatre
9:45 – 11:00 p.m.	Free Time	
11:00 – 12:00 a.m.	Go To Assigned Rooms	Assigned Lodging
Midnight	Lights out	

*Speaker session and schedule subject to change

Saturday and Sunday Schedules Conference Program

Saturday March 11 & April 8

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Micklewright Lodge
8:45 – 9:45 a.m.	Presentation #3... <i>Ms. Mia Fontain</i>	Mickelwright Lodge
9:45 - 10:15 a.m.	Group Photos	Basketball Court
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Presentation #4... <i>Mr. Tom Carroll</i>	Micklewright Lodge
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Small Groups Meetings	Various Locations
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Micklewright Lodge
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Team Building	Low Ropes Courses
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Presentation #5 <i>To Chase a Dream*</i>	Micklewright Lodge
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Photos Outside	Basketball Court
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Presentation #6... <i>Rachel's Challenge*</i>	Micklewright Lodge
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Small Group Meetings	Various Locations
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Free Time	Various Locations
5:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Dinner	Micklewright Lodge
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Skit Preparations	Various Locations
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Skit Performances	Micklewright Lodge
9:00 – 12:00 a.m.	Dance (DJ)	Micklewright Lodge
12:30 – 1:00 a.m.	Room Time	Assigned Lodging
1:00 a.m.	Lights out	

Sunday March 12 & April 9

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Micklewright Lodge
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	What is Rotary.... <i>Sean Nelson</i>	Micklewright Lodge
10:15 – 11:15	Last Group Meetings	Various Locations
11:15 - Noon	Pack, Free Time & Shirt signing	Various Locations
Noon - 1:00	Lunch	Micklewright Lodge
1:00	Departure	

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

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference offers participants a choice to attend one of two weekends featuring the same program format and speakers. Session I will be March 9-12, 2017 and Session II will be April 6-9, 2017. 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 was established by Rotary International as a special award for young people, of high school age, who have displayed leadership skills or potential, as shown by their active participation in groups or services. Each student 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 presenter is the greatest speaker I have ever witnessed or heard! We also have two best-selling authors joining us this year! The program will greatly enhance leadership skills through lectures, hands on activities, team leadership activities, and interaction with other student leaders from around the District.

The cost to Rotary Clubs is **\$350** 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 and meals, speaker fees, staffing, night security, snacks, supplies, RYLA tee shirt, all photos and videos from the weekends will be uplinked to a private Facebook page. **Students who attend RYLA are expected to speak at the sponsoring Rotary Club sometime within the following few months after their attendance.**

Once the students have been selected/accepted by their sponsoring Rotary Club (or by their school), and I receive their approved application, I will send them an Acceptance Packet.

Inside each packet is:

- Letter congratulating the student for being selected to attend RYLA
- List of what to bring/what not to bring to camp
- Expectations letter (behavior and participation)
- Transportation information document and memos
- Full agenda for the weekend conference
- Camp map and other basic information

All transportation issues and other individual special needs may be handled directly with me.

Every single participant (more than 3,000 over the last fifteen years) has rated the camp very high in terms of the experience. The average score over the last five years is an amazing 9.7 (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.

Most Frequently Asked Questions about RYLA

How do I get students from the local high schools interested in attending RYLA?

Simply forward the information I send you to the local schools' guidance offices. A phone call, in advance, or an in-person drop off will help you pinpoint exactly which administrator/counselor should receive the packet. Schools familiar with RYLA are very interested in getting the information. Schools that 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 age student in our district (current freshman through senior) is eligible. They do not have to possess any specific qualification or grade point average. Most students who attend are typically very involved in their school or community, although this is not the case with 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 forms and a transportation memo listing bus pick up sites. There are two pieces of information in the packet the student must return to me so I know where they are going to be picked up and who we would need to contact in case of an emergency.

How much is the conference?

The cost this year is again is only \$350. We have not had a price increase in five years. However, when you consider all the leadership skills offered by this RYLA conference over the three days and nights, it is quite a bargain! I cannot say this enough times: the speakers are amazing, and the quote I hear most often is “*it was a 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 and allows us to use its low element ropes course as part of our conference activities. The camp also has very nice, separate housing for the boys and girls, great food, spacious lodges for meetings and group discussion, and outdoor team problem-solving stations. Plus, there are too many more features to list here.

Who is in charge? Who watches my kids?

We have a ratio of one adult group facilitator per eight participants. We also have a night security watchman who patrols the camp all night. His security role is supplemented by my oversight as well as the experienced eyes of the camp staff. The camp is very remote and secure.

If we have a conflict, can I pick up my son/daughter early or late? Then, 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 without incident. However, we ask they not miss Friday morning or afternoon, if possible. We believe we have 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.