



# RYLA

(Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)

The purpose of the program is to recognize young people who have demonstrated leadership skills or show the potential to be leaders, and provide them with an opportunity to explore and further develop these skills with other with similar capabilities.

- During the 3 Day Conference Participants will ...**
- Explore their own style and strengths
  - Learn skills that will enable them to be aware of and to address community needs
  - Interact with adult role models who are active in their professions and community
  - Develop and learn leadership skills
  - Have a lot of fun!

# GOALS:

- to learn and incorporate new concepts of leadership and citizenship.
- to have opportunities to express ideas and concepts.
- to feel and give acceptance of and to each other.
- to experience the joy of learning teamwork.
- to become comfortable in expressing opinions in a supportive group environment.
- to meet new friends and learn how to reach out and make new friends without the usual conventions (cliques, etc.).
- to be challenged to "Return to Serve" your community.

## LEADERSHIP. TEAMBUILDING. COMMUNICATION. PRESENTATIONS. DISCUSSIONS. RYLA.



"I now have the confidence and knowledge to lead groups."



"This was an incredible experience I will never forget."



"This trip gave me much more confidence in myself..."



Session 1: March 9-12, 2017  
 Session 2: April 6-9, 2017

leadership conference for high school students



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT #6440

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# WHAT IS RYLA? FEATURED SPEAKERS

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards - or RYLA - is a not-for-profit training program for leaders and potential leaders (Freshman-Senior). As a RYLA participant, you will attend an all-expense-paid, three day camp. You will be joined by talented young people like yourself from other communities in your area.

The sponsoring Rotary clubs involved in organizing the event determine the specifics of each RYLA program. All programs emphasize leadership skills, personal development, and citizenship. RYLA goes to great lengths to make sure the three day weekend is fun and recreational as well as educational for all involved.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Outdoor Problem Solving
- Abe Lincoln/Teddy Roosevelt Appearances
- Dance
- Skits
- Campfire
- Team Building Activities
- Low Ropes Courses

## RYLA 2017

Held at Edwards Camp & Conference Center in East Troy, Wisconsin, dates for 2017 are:

- **Session 1:** March 9-12, 2017
- **Session 2:** April 6-9, 2017



**RICK METZGER:** His instant rapport with audience comes easily from the social and communications skills developed as a retired professional athlete and high school athletic coach. Rick's personal achievements as an eight time National NASA Bench Press Champion, an American record holder in drug-free power lifting, and a four time gold medalist at the World Cup of Power Lifting, have all equipped Rick to deliver a fast paced, high energy program that enlightens, entertains and empowers all who hear him.



**MIA FOUNTAINE:** She is the author of *ComeBack: A Mother and Daughter's Journey Through Hell and Back*, a best-selling memoir that chronicles Mia's drug-fueled descent into society's underbelly and her remarkable healing process that led her from being a high school dropout and runaway to a graduate of Georgetown University.

### Additional speakers with inspiring stories include:

- **JOEY FEINSTEIN FROM THE CLIMATE CYCLE**
- **ACTRESS MS. ERIN CAHILL**
- **POLAR EXPLORER JOHN HUSTON**
- **AUTHOR WHITEY KAPSALIS**



**RACHEL'S CHALLENGE:** Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion, coupled with the contents of her six diaries, have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America. Powerful audio/video footage of Rachel's life and the Columbine tragedy holds students spell-bound during a 90-minute presentation that motivates them to positive change in the way they treat others. [www.rachelschallenge.org](http://www.rachelschallenge.org)



**TOM CARROLL:** Tom Carroll is the Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer for RR Donnelley, a 10 billion dollar international Fortune 250 Company with more than 58,000 employees worldwide. He has served in many leadership roles and has had increasing responsibility over his 19 years with the company. As the Chief Human Resource Officer, he has responsibilities for all aspects of human resources for domestic and global operations in the Asia Pacific, Mexico, South America, Canada, Europe and the United States. Carroll is a skilled business strategist, executive coach, team developer, facilitator, and motivational speaker. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology.



**SEAN NELSON**  
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**SEAN NELSON** is the Volunteer RYLA Conference Chairman. Sean has been a Wheaton Noon Rotarian for 20 years and has been the conference Chair for the past 15 years. During that time, the conference has doubled in participation and is nearing capacity. Sean believes that the speakers at the conference are arguably the best that participants might ever have an opportunity to hear... at any price! Sean has been a Rotarian for almost 20 years and currently is the Executive Director for Illinois YMCA Youth and Government. Rotary Clubs sponsor 100% of the students selected to attend. If interested in more information about RYLA please feel free to contact Sean directly.

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