



**Rotary Youth  
Leadership Awards  
Camp Guide for  
RYLA Club Chairperson**



**Camp RYLA District 5580  
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# **CAMP RYLA GUIDE**

## **DISTRICT 5580**

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# **I. GENERAL INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND**

## **A. Purpose and Objectives of Camp RYLA**

- 1. The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) provides outstanding student leaders an opportunity to expand and hone their leadership skills at a one week seminar called Camp RYLA, which is staffed and operated by volunteer Rotarians from District 5580.**
  
- 2. The Objectives of Camp RYLA are:**
  - a. To provide an atmosphere where future leaders will experience democratic living that will aid them in developing sound values.**
  - b. To promote an environment that will provide each individual with a basis of insight and understanding for intelligent leadership.**
  - c. To expose the youth leaders to some opportunities and challenges of life in a free democratic society.**
  - d. To promote involvement that encourages the participants to think through and arbitrate conflicts of values.**

## **B. Background**

- 1. District 5580 is committed to sponsoring Camp RYLA as one of its outstanding youth projects.**
  
- 2. Camp is held in July of each year beginning Sunday and running through Saturday.**

3. **Camp RYLA consists of:**
  - a. **Leadership training via: outstanding speakers from all over our District; family and discussion groups; and rap sessions with their fellow campers and Rotarian staff members.**
  - b. **Activities to include daily win/win situations among camper groups as well as many other activities.**
  - c. **Fellowship with their student leader peers, facilitators, and Rotarians. Campers make friendships that will last a lifetime.**

### **C. Important Facts**

1. **RYLA transcends two Rotary years – see Schedule of events.**
2. **Coordination and communication**
  - a. **Club president, president-elect, and camp RYLA chairperson coordinate all RYLA related activities at club level for this program to succeed.**
  - b. **Early financial commitment via club budget is vital.**
  - c. **Early appointment of Club RYLA Chairperson is essential as this program transcends two Rotary years.**

## **II. Club President and President-elect Responsibilities**

### **A. Job Description**

1. **Become knowledgeable about the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**
  - a. **Background and history**
  - b. **Camp RYLA**
  - c. **Sequence of deadlines**
2. **Appoint and oversee club RYLA chairperson.**
3. **Make sure all deadlines are met.**
4. **Follow through on your club's commitment to the RYLA program.**

**B. Budgeting**

- 1. Your club must budget for your RYLA campers before or at the beginning of each Rotary year on July 1.**
- 2. Campers should be selected prior to May 15 in order to get their applications in before the May 15 deadline.**
- 3. IMPORTANT: Budget far in advance for your RYLA campers.**
- 4. NO REFUNDS will be given after the March 1 deadline for submitting your payment for the number of campers you plan on sponsoring.**

**C. Appointment of RYLA Chairperson**

- 1. The RYLA chairperson should be a responsible Rotarian who will follow through on his/her commitment.**
- 2. Appointment should be for TWO years as the program overlaps two Rotarian years.**
- 3. Chairperson should in turn pick an assistant chair. The chairperson should train his/her successor to perpetuate a strong program at the club level.**
- 4. The District RYLA chairperson should work with the president, president-elect, and the RYLA club chairperson.**

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND DEADLINES**

### **Club President and/or RYLA chairperson**

- July 1**                    **Budget for next year's camp and decide how many campers you will be sponsoring. Appoint a RYLA chairperson for next year if you don't already have one.**
- September**            **Make sure your RYLA chairperson contacts returning campers to set up and coordinate a program on RYLA Camp they will give to your club. At your club's program, award the RYLA certificates to all campers. Remind campers to help recruit for next year's RYLA Camp.**
- November**              **Make sure that at your regular Board of Directors meeting, remind directors of commitment to next year's RYLA program – both financial and time.**
- February**               **Have club treasurer send check to the District treasurer for the number of campers you plan to send. Checks should be made out to Rotary International District 5580. The DEADLINE IS MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- March 1**                 **President's should contact your club's RYLA chairperson and make sure the committee selection process has begun.**
- April 1**                 **RYLA Camper interviews should be completed prior to May 15 to meet the May 15 deadline. Also, select 1 to 4 alternates just in case someone cancels.**
- May 15**                 **Applications need to be received by the MAY 15 DEADLINE. They should be mailed to Krista Proulx, 121 Adams Street, Crookston, MN 56716.**
- July 1**                 **Chairperson will need to arrange for transportation to and from Camp RYLA for your club's camper(s). Note: Campers are not allowed to take their own vehicles to camp. You may team up with other clubs. Make sure the camper(s) has all their medical forms filled out and sent. If they do not have their medical forms in when they arrive at camp, they will be sent home.**

### **III. Club RYLA Chairperson's Responsibilities**

#### **a. Job Description and Responsibilities**

- 1. Become knowledgeable about the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and the Camp RYLA program.**
- 2. Organize RYLA Club Committee to select camper(s) to represent your club.**
- 3. Recruit outstanding young men and women in your community for Camp RYLA.**
  - a. Ask previous year's campers for their recommendations and help in recruiting students.**
  - b. Publicize the RYLA program at schools and youth centers in your community.**
- 4. Arrange early in the year for camper transportation to and from Camp RYLA. CAMPERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE THEIR OWN VEHICLES TO CAMP.**
- 5. Plan and coordinate your club's RYLA program soon after the completion of camp.**
  - a. Campers are expected to report to your club on their experience at Camp RYLA**
  - b. It can be one of the best programs of the year if scheduled right after camp.**
- 6. Help recruit Rotarian "Facilitators" from your club to help staff the camp.**

## **IV. Camper Selection Process**

### **1. Criteria**

- a. Send your best students to Camp RYLA. We want the outstanding young leaders and potential leaders in your community for our Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). Use the following as a guide:**
  - 1. Good academic record**
  - 2. Involvement in school activities such as Honor Societies, Academic clubs, and other activities (i.e. band, debate, drama, choir, etc.)**
  - 3. Involvement in athletics such as varsity sports, intramural sports and non-school related sports.**
  - 4. Work experience such as after school jobs and summer jobs.**
  - 5. Other significant achievements and honors**
- b. The awardees must be sophomores or juniors (no seniors) in the academic year that ends in May prior to the Camp in July. PREFERENCE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO JUNIORS as the vast majority of the campers will be seniors beginning in September after the Camp.**
- c. As a rule, try to send well rounded individuals who are recognized leaders with proven leadership qualities.**

### **2. Recruitment**

- a. Sources**
  - 1. Previous RYLA campers – your best source**
  - 2. School principals and counselors**
  - 3. Coaches**
  - 4. Rotarians (sons and daughters of Rotarians may attend Camp RYLA).**
- b. Orientation**
  - 1. Meet with high school principals, counselors and coaches to explain the purpose of Camp RYLA.**
  - 2. Meet with potential applicants to explain the purpose of Camp RYLA.**
- c. Timetable**
  - 1. Start recruitment process early in the school year, but no later than January 15.**
  - 2. Applications need to be submitted by May 15 each year.**



**3. Interviews and Selection**

**a. Time – interviews in April**

**b. Procedure**

- 1. Have applicants include school transcript and picture with application. Optional: Ask them to write a short essay on why they think the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp would be a good experience for them.**
- 2. Schedule interviews with full committee of Rotarians.**
- 3. Organize question format to standardize questions for all applicants. See attached sample list of questions.**
- 4. Photograph each applicant to assist in the review.**
- 5. Rating:**
  - a. Use rating sheet for each camper interviewed**
  - b. Acquaint selection committee with rating system to assure consistent grading**
  - c. See sample rating sheet**

**4. Selection of Alternates**

- a. IMPORTANT: Select your allotted camper(s) and one, two or several alternate(s).**
- b. Selected campers sometimes drop out before start of camp and alternates must be prepared to take their place.**
- c. Keep alternate informed of all details regarding camp right up until the start of Camp RYLA.**
- d. AFTER MARCH 1 NO REFUNDS FOR CAMPER FEES WILL BE REFUNDED.**

## **Camp RYLA Sample Interview Questions**

- 1. We have a brief background from you. What would you add that you feel is significant for our committee? (Recent awards or honors).**
- 2. What is the importance of business in today's world?**
- 3. If you were sitting in my chair and interviewing candidates for this award, what leadership qualities would you look for?**
- 4. Is "Free Enterprise" good and what is "Free Enterprise"?**
- 5. If I were to call your teachers (or one of your parents) what would they tell me your two greatest strengths are? Two greatest weaknesses?**
- 6. Where do you want to be five years from now? What are your goals for the next ten years?**
- 7. What is your favorite subject? What is your least favorite subject?**
- 8. If you had to pick the one person that you admired most, who would it be? Who are your heroes?**
- 9. What are your hobbies?**
- 10. Do you foresee any conflicts with the Camp RYLA you would like to ask?**
- 11. Is there anything else we should know about you or anything you would like to share with us?**