

Rotary  District 7170



Rotary **Y**outh **L**eadership **A**wards

**Welcome parents, guidance
counselors and students**



Exactly what is **RYLA**?

- **R**otary **Y**outh **L**eadership **A**wards is a program that provides outstanding youth leaders an opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills.
- The **RYLA** program for Rotary District 7170 is a week-long conference held on the SUNY Oneonta college campus in Oneonta, New York late in June. 110 students attend each year.



The **RYLA** Conference is a forum that provides exceptional students moving from their junior to senior years with an opportunity to exchange ideas, opinions and beliefs with other students in a relaxed, retreat-style setting.

ROTARY BELIEVES THAT:

- Strong leaders are made, not born
- Leadership principles are learned, not inherited.



- At the **RYLA** Conference students will be involved in extensive leadership training.
- Students will have the unique opportunity to be exposed to many facets of leadership by individuals who are already leaders in their professions.
- **RYLA** is a valuable experience for those who choose to meet the challenge.

- At the **RYLA** Conference, students become more effective role models, team players and leaders.
- They learn how and when to lead, and how and when to follow .
- They learn how to become an effective member of a team.

What do students do at RYLA?

- They participate in a week of intense leadership training. Students learn about what it takes to be not just a leader but a good leader.
- Outstanding speakers from all over the region, discussion groups, and sessions with volunteer Rotarian staff members are just a few of the sources for leadership development.
- Activities include daily interaction among peer camper groups, challenging physical and mental activities, and fellowship with Rotarians. Students will make friendships that last a lifetime!

What will this cost?

- All fees for students are paid by your local Rotary Club. The only charge is a \$25.00 per person fee for guests of students at the Friday night graduation banquet.
- Parents and other Rotarians are strongly encouraged to attend this banquet to understand what the students experienced during the week. You'll love it!



What do the students think about their **RYLA** experience?

Here's what they say:

"I was so nervous when I arrived on Sunday. But by Friday, I didn't want to go home!"

"I learned to push myself and be more positive."

"This was a life-changing experience."

"RYLA is amazing! You learn a ton and don't even realize it because you're having so much fun."

"RYLA is awesooooooooooooooooooooome!!!"

And finally, what is Rotary?

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development. The Rotary motto is *Service Above Self*.