



# **Rotary District 7490**

Candidate Information Handbook

## What is RYLA?

RYLA in Rotary District 7490 is a program oriented for High School Juniors.

RYLA is...an opportunity...a challenge...an award.

RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Award, a program sponsored by your local Rotary Club for students entering their senior year of high school in the September following the conference. Rotary sponsors the RYLA program each year to give back to the communities that have given it so much.

RYLA participants attend an all expense paid, six-day workshop focusing on leadership, team building, and professional development topics. They join other talented young people selected by the 51 Rotary Clubs of District 7490, in Northern New Jersey.

## The Objectives of RYLA

- To demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth.
- To publicly recognize and nurture the high qualities of the many young people who are rendering service to their communities as youth leaders.
- To stimulate and cultivate leadership potential in youth.
- To provide meaningful leadership training experience for youth, through programs such as physical & mental challenges, discussions, and guest speakers.
- To give back to its communities that have given so much to Rotary, by providing training for an elite group of tomorrow's leaders.

## RYLA Leadership Training Conference

Conference participants will have the opportunity to participate in a customized leadership development program designed over more than 20 years of experiential learning conferences.

Sessions and workshops include assessing group and individual task readiness, and implementation of different leadership styles. Participants will develop Mission Statements and set goals. The skills they acquire during the conference will have direct application in their schools, communities, and life situations.

Small group activities and action groups are also designed to enhance leadership skills. These activities include *social interaction programs, talent groups, public speaking, creative writing*, and contributions to the "weekbook" (a week-long program's equivalent of a yearbook). Challenge course and physical and mental challenges will be used as a metaphor for learning.

A week of fun, learning, and discovery will culminate with a recognition ceremony. RYLA is a lifetime experience not to be forgotten.

## Why Was I Chosen?

**You have been chosen for any number of reasons. . .**

- You have shown leadership skills/abilities.
- You are an active and involved student.
- Your extracurricular activities are noteworthy.
- Your activities are well balanced.
- You are able to communicate effectively.
- Adults find you to be exemplary.
- You are a doer, not an observer.

### **Achieving Your Goals**

This conference has been designed to be an intensive, intellectually challenging session to enhance your leadership skills and to stimulate your thinking about yourself, your life, and your country. In order for you and your peers to gain the most from this experience, please keep in mind that

all Conferees must:

- Be willing to follow rules and take direction.
- Attend all scheduled sessions.
- Work with peers in small and large group settings.

Remember, for every right you have as a Conference participant, you have an equal responsibility to your sponsoring Rotary Club, to RYLA, and to other participants.

## General Information

### **Transportation**

You are responsible for your own transportation to the buses. Your sponsoring Rotary Club may provide transportation to and from the drop off site (ask your sponsoring club for details of any such service offered). Participants will be bused to the camp, and may NOT bring cars.

### **Housing**

You will be rooming with other Participants in cabins. Beds are provided; however, you need to bring a sleeping bag, pillow and bath towels. Changing your cabin assignment is prohibited.

### **Meals**

Three meals per day will be served in the on-site cafeteria. The Closing Ceremony on Friday evening will be a semi-formal occasion, please bring an appropriate outfit. Parents and Rotarians are invited and encouraged to attend this ceremony, which begins at 6:30pm.

### **Supervision**

Experienced adult college-age leaders are selected as resident staff at the Conference. Also included are Facilitators, Counselors, and Staff Volunteers. Rotarians also serve as chaperones. While Participants are treated as responsible young men and women, adherence to basic rules is expected.

## **Speakers**

You will be addressed by a variety of professional men and women during the Conference. Many lecturers and volunteers will be selected Rotarians and former RYLA candidates with demonstrated business and leadership qualities. Workshops, small groups, and action group facilitators are experienced leaders having professional, teaching, and/or camp experience.

## **Rules & Regulations – “Words To Live By”**

- Alcohol and drugs are prohibited.
- Personal vehicles are prohibited.
- Leaving the Conference is prohibited.
- Smoking is prohibited everywhere.
- Conferees are expected to remain in their assigned rooms after curfew.
- Curfew will be enforced.
- No cellular phones or beepers. (A phone number will be made available in case of an emergency)
- There Are No Exceptions To The Rules

Failure to adhere to the standards set forth by the RYLA Committee will result in immediate expulsion from the Conference. Participants' parent(s) or guardian(s) will be called and are expected to respond immediately. Respect the rules and you will have a great time.

## **Departure**

The Conference ends at approximately 8:00 pm, after the Closing Ceremony. Participants are expected to be packed to leave with either their parents or a Rotarian from the Club, immediately after the Closing Ceremony.

## **What Is Rotary?**

### **Rotary Is. . .**

Rotary is a service organization of business and professional people united world wide who conduct humanitarian projects, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and work toward world understanding and peace.

Rotary is approximately one million service-minded people belonging to over 21,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 180 countries. Membership is by

invitation.

Rotary meets weekly, both to eat and enjoy each other's fellowship, and discuss how they can serve others.

Rotary is compassion for the underprivileged, the underfed and the disabled, many of whom are the beneficiaries of 25,000 service projects conducted by Rotary Clubs in the world each year.

Rotary adds fulfillment to the lives of more than 7,000 young people each year of secondary school age as they study in a country other than their own.

The Rotary Foundation contributes more than 20 million U.S. dollars annually toward various programs to promote international understanding.

Rotary sponsors Interact, more than 4,500 service clubs for young people of secondary school age in some 80 countries.

Rotary sponsors Rotaract, more than 4,500 clubs for young adults between 18 and 28 years old in almost 100 countries.

Rotary began in 1905 in Chicago. The international headquarters is in Evanston, Illinois, and there are branch offices in several countries on four continents.

Rotary for the last ten years has been growing at the extraordinary rate of a new club every 18.5 hours.

## Rotary's Partnership With Youth

### **Every Rotarian is an Example to Youth**

Rotary Clubs throughout the world enter into partnership with youth in many ways to implement the Object of Rotary.

Rotary's youth activities include: the Rotary Foundation, Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, Student Exchange, Sponsorship of young people in the various youth services outside Rotary, and support of other Community Youth Activities.

## **The Rotary Foundation**

Supported by the member Rotary Clubs of Rotary International, the Rotary Foundation aims to advance the Fourth Avenue of Rotary Service: International understanding, good will and peace.

The Rotary Foundation awards scholarships annually to outstanding young men and women to study in an overseas country for a year. A scholarship covers round-trip transportation, education, living and miscellaneous expenses, and is available in the following categories:

- Graduate Scholarships
- Undergraduate Scholarships
- Vocational Scholarships
- Teacher of the Disabled Scholarships
- Journalism Scholarships

## **Rotary's Avenues of Service**

- Community Service
- Vocational Service
- Guidance Service
- International Service

## **Rotary's Four-Way Test**

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

## **The Object Of Rotary**

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

**First:** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**Second:** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each

Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to service society;

**Third:** The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business, and community life;

**Fourth:** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professionals united in the ideal of service.