



ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**ROTARY
DISTRICT
5830**

**Clements Scout Ranch
Athens, TX**

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CAMP ASSIGNMENTS BY CLUB

District 5830 RYLA holds two camp sessions each year. Campers for each session will be assigned according to the geographical location of the sponsoring club.

Session 1: Jan. 30th - Feb. 1st	Session 2: Feb. 20th - 22nd
Athens	Antlers
Bullard	Atlanta
Canton	Big Sandy
Carthage	Clarksville
Cedar Creek Lake	Gilmer
Henderson	Gladewater
Jacksonville	Hugo
Kilgore	Idabel
Leaders in Service	Jefferson
Lindale	Mineola
Longview	Mt. Pleasant
Longview Greggton	Mt. Vernon
Marshall	Paris United
Overton	Pittsburgh
Troup	Quitman
Tyler South	Sulphur Springs
Tyler Sunrise	Texarkana International
Tyler Downtown	Texarkana Oaklawn
Wills Point	Texarkana Sunrise
Winnsboro	Texarkana Wilbur Smith
	West Bowie County

THE PURPOSE

To provide outstanding student leaders an opportunity to expand and develop their leadership skills at a weekend scholarship camp.

THE OBJECTIVE

- To provide an atmosphere where future leaders will experience learning situations that will aid them in developing sound skills and values.
- To promote an environment that will provide each individual with a basis of insight and understanding for intelligent leadership.
- To promote involvement that encourages the participants to think through appropriate actions based on values and ethics.
- To encourage students, through cooperative activities and group dynamics, to develop leadership skills to be brought back to their communities.

RYLA PARTICIPANTS

STAFF

RYLA 5830 is run by a volunteer staff of Rotarians and RYLA alumni who stood out during their camper experience and have continued to emulate our 8 traits of leadership at camp and in their daily lives. If you are a Rotarian interested in volunteering at camp this year, complete the application by the deadline stated online.

CAMPERS

- High school juniors *who have **already** demonstrated leadership abilities* in their schools and communities and have been selected by District 5830 Rotary clubs to attend camp.
- **No campers will be permitted to arrive at camp late or leave early.**
- Campers will be expected to arrive on time and participate in all events.
- Campers will be expected to present a program on their experiences at RYLA to their sponsoring Rotary Club subsequent to the close of camp.

RYLA CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Become knowledgeable about the RYLA program.
- Submit your club's reservation form, payment, and camper registrations by the appropriate deadlines.
- Organize your club's camper selection committee. This committee will review applications, conduct interviews, and select students to attend RYLA.
- If there are multiple clubs in your area, you should work together to decide which will represent each high school.
- Additional spots **may** be granted based on availability, need, & order of request. They will not be automatically awarded as in past years.
- Know the time table and all deadlines, and make sure they are met.
- Schedule a RYLA program at your local Club as soon as the campers return!
- Make sure that all selected applicants attend the camp.
- Make sure the RYLA candidates and their parents/guardians are informed of all necessary details of the program that can be found on our website, ryla5830.com.
- Arrange for each student's transportation to and from the camp by at least two club members, per youth protection protocols. This is a good opportunity for the candidate to find out more about Rotary and for your club to learn more about RYLA on the return trip. **All students must arrive on time.**
- If any camper is asked to leave camp due to illness or misconduct, you will be the point of contact for transportation arrangements. Either you or a club member will need to retrieve the camper in question.
- **Campers are not allowed to take their own vehicles to camp.**

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

- Reach out to teachers to help identify a pool of eligible students, both young men and young women, from which to select the best candidates.
- Distribute information and applications throughout the high school to encourage student interest.
- *The counselor is not to select the campers, as that is the role of the Rotary Club's Camper Selection Committee.*

THE SELECTION PROCESS

RECRUITING

Become familiar with the RYLA program by reviewing the RYLA 5830 website and this packet. Talk with high school counselors early in the school year to inform them about RYLA. Distribute applications with the Counselor Cover Letter. Make sure that the high school counselors understand that they are an important link in the selection process but not to select the campers. Encourage them to use their teachers as resources in the process.

Express to the high school counselors the far-reaching benefits their high school will receive by sending quality leaders to RYLA. These scholarship winners will bring back information and new skills that will benefit many others in the student body of their high school.

Some of the things that should be considered are:

- Service work performed (school and community)
- Involvement and leadership in school activities
- Work experience
- Significant personal achievements
- Homeschooled and non-traditional students should also be considered

**Individuals with physical or mental limitations will have a greater difficulty handling the challenges of RYLA Camp. Our staff is not equipped or trained to handle campers with significant limitations. **

If you have more than one club in your area, coordinate your efforts amongst yourselves. If you have more than one local high school, make sure that you consider candidates at all schools.

SELECTION

Organize a club interview committee. Arrange an interview time for all the candidates from each school. Ask the same interview questions to each candidate. **Inform them that they are to attend the full weekend, regardless of unforeseen activities.** If they cannot commit to this requirement, please select another candidate. Notify each candidate as to the results of your committee's selection. **Be sure to select an alternate for each scholarship winner.**

ORIENTATION

We recommend you hold an orientation with your campers a few weeks prior to camp. Explain that your campers are receiving an award, the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. Share the commitment that your club has made and that they make in accepting this award. Remind them that they are to attend the full weekend, regardless of unforeseen activities. Ensure that all questions regarding camp are answered, and give students a copy of the camper packet. Ensure all students have completed the online medical form and committed to any necessary health protocols.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

These questions are provided to help you, Rotarians charged with interviewing high school juniors to be selected as attendees for RYLA Camp, select the best candidates for camp. You may use any of these or other questions you feel are appropriate to each interview to get the best results. **Be sure to ask each applicant the same questions during interviews.** Choose questions that apply best to your club's goals.

1. If I were to ask your parents or teachers, what would they tell me are your two greatest strengths? Your two greatest weaknesses?
2. Who has had the most influence on your life and how?
3. When you accomplish a task, how do you determine if you have done a good job?
4. What traits of a good leader do you admire most?
5. If you were interviewing candidates for this award, what leadership qualities would you look for?
6. Can a high school junior be an influential leader? If so, how?
7. What is the number one leadership quality you look for in a school leader? In a national leader?
8. Other than a family member, who is/are your hero/heroes? And why?
9. Name the best leader of whom you have ever heard. Why do you consider that person the best leader?
10. Is there anything you would like to share with us that would give us a reason to select you for RYLA camp instead of another student?
11. What five things do you value most in life?
12. If you had only six months to live, how would you spend your time?
13. If you suddenly came into a large amount of money, how do you think it would change your life?
14. What kinds of experiences in life give you the greatest feelings of importance?
15. If you knew you could not fail, what one great thing would you dare to dream?
16. Do you have any questions about RYLA camp you would like to ask?

GUIDELINES FOR CAMPER PRESENTATION AT CLUB MEETING

1. Students (and RYLA staff, if present) are introduced.
2. Students explain their "RYLA name" and how they chose it.
3. Students should express their appreciation to Club members for sponsoring them.
4. Students should decide beforehand who will speak on each aspect of camp. This can be divided by day, RYLA leadership traits, or other areas determined by the students.
5. Students may present a demonstration of skills learned at RYLA via a small activity such as a trust fall, sherpa walk, etc.
6. Students should express specifically:
 1. How RYLA changed the way they perceive leadership.
 2. What it takes to be an effective leader in today's society.
 3. How their experience will change how they act in school and their community.
 4. How one specific attribute of the 8 leadership traits affected their lives.

COUNSELOR COVER LETTER

Dear **[High School Counselor]**,

Rotary International District 5830 will host select high school juniors in a weekend leadership development program called RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award). The purpose of RYLA is to provide outstanding high school juniors who exhibit leadership qualities in their school and community activities, an opportunity to develop those skills in a team-focused environment designed to challenge them to excel.

Rotary District 5830, through its local Rotary clubs, will award full scholarships to select high school juniors from your school to attend the camp. We will award approximately 200 scholarships in District 5830 and our challenge is to select the very best student leaders we can. That is why your involvement is so important.

For the selection process, we would like to interview several students based upon your recommendations and their applications. Since RYLA is co-educational, we must select both young men and young women. Your influence and assistance in getting the applications into the hands of the best candidates will be greatly appreciated.

The benefit to you and to your school comes with the opportunity to provide recognition for students who exhibit service and leadership achievement. In addition, you have the assurance that all students will be positively influenced by the example and leadership that your RYLA participants provide when they return to your school. You will notice the difference, and you will be proud of them.

RYLA will be held at the Clements Scout Ranch near Athens, Texas. Attached to this letter are several copies of the student application which you may distribute to those students you feel would make good applicants. Completed applications should be returned to the local Rotary Club's RYLA Coordinator whose name is shown below. The deadline for submitting all applications to your local sponsoring Rotary Club is **[insert chosen deadline here]**.

The RYLA Coordinator representing the Rotary Club in your area is:

[INSERT RYLA CHAIR/COORDINATOR NAME AND CONTACT INFO]

The Camp Session designated for campers from this school is:

Session 1: Jan. 30th - Feb. 1st, 2026

Session 2: Feb. 20th - 22nd, 2026