

INFORMATION ABOUT RYLA

1. THE ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA) PROGRAM

We, the members of the Rotary Clubs throughout District 7280, are conducting our twenty-eighth RYLA Conference in 2010. As a community service project, we have designed it to help produce the responsible and effective young leaders who will be needed to meet the challenges of the future.

2. SPECIFIC RYLA OBJECTIVES

- A. To give public recognition to the many young people who are already rendering important service to our communities.
- B. To encourage and develop young leaders and potential leaders by providing them with a meaningful training experience.
- C. To demonstrate further, Rotary's respect and concern for our youth.

3. THE CONFERENCE

Approximately 100 high school seniors from northwestern Pennsylvania will attend our RYLA Conference beginning Sunday afternoon, June 13 and ending Friday evening, June 18, 2010. During this 5 1/2 day period, they will be using the classrooms, campus, and residence hall facilities at Westminster College. Participating Rotary Clubs will select the participants, pay their expenses, and insure transportation to and from the Conference.

4. CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

The intensive schedule is filled with stimulating lectures and discussions of leadership skills, youth-related concerns, public issues, community service activities, career guidance, and recreation. Evenings are devoted to varied activities such as organizing a talent show, recreation activities, campus movies and concerts, and social events.

5. STAFF

The Conference will be directed by Rotary professionals, assisted by qualified educators. In addition, lectures and discussions will be presented by experts and leaders in business, law, government, and the community.

6. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Any young man or woman -- regardless of race, creed, or color

- A. who will be a high school senior in September, 2010, and
- B. who has demonstrated leadership potential in school, church, or community service, and
- C. who has a desire to develop his or her leadership potential, and
- D. who will contribute to making the conference a meaningful experience for others.

7. SELECTION PROCEDURE

Nominations will be accepted from school guidance counselors, teachers, administrators, student councils, youth groups, social agencies, church organizations, community leaders, and Rotarians. Final selections, however, are made following interviews by the sponsoring Rotary Club.

When selecting student participants, please verify that the students will be able to stay for the entire program without any other commitments. The program is very demanding and you should be very careful in your selection.

8. INFORMATION FORMS AND MEDICAL REPORTS

Successful candidates will receive detailed information regarding the conference via mail and email including a medical form which is to be completed by their physician and submitted by participant when they arrive at the conference. Once a commitment is made, selected candidates should be prepared to attend the Conference unless an emergency or illness arises.

9. FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact any District RYLA committee member or the Chair, Mike Davis.

Sample Letter to School Principals, Guidance Counselors, etc.

Dear:

The Rotary Club of _____ is interested in community leadership, not only for today, but for tomorrow as well.

The students in your school will, in a very few years, be assuming some of your community's leadership roles. We know you are training them for the task. Rotary would like to help also.

For this reason, the 44 Rotary Clubs in District 7280 will conduct their twenty-eighth annual Youth Leadership Conference at Westminster College from June 13 through June 18, 2010. It will be staffed by carefully selected counselors and teachers. Our objective is to offer outstanding high school seniors an opportunity to live, work, and play together in an atmosphere of friendly competition which will offer a challenge for the students to accept the responsibility of leadership. Much of each student's time will be structured with programs such as group discussions, guest speakers, career guidance, group sports, newsletter and chorus. Perhaps the greatest benefit will come from sharing this experience with the approximately 100 other outstanding young men and women from high schools in this District.

Our Rotary Club is asking you to nominate young men and women who have already displayed leadership abilities and who will profit most from this experience. We suggest they be selected first for leadership potential, second for good citizenship, third for desire to attend the Conference, and fourth for scholarship. These characteristics are listed in that order so that latent leaders are not overlooked because of grades. The only other requirement is that they must be students who will enter their senior class in September.

The nominations should be made and the names given to _____ no later than _____. Our Rotary Committee will then conduct interviews and select the conferees.

It is our hope that the selection for the Youth Leadership Conference might become a regular part of your award system, and an honor that students can work for and achieve.

Thanks for your assistance in this project for the advancement of youth.

Sincerely,

Rotary Club
RYLA Conference Committee Chairman

Sample News Release to Announce Search for Candidates

For Immediate Release

For More Information, Contact

Name _____

Phone _____

The Rotary Clubs of District 7280 will host their Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference from June 13th – 18th at Westminster College.

Eligible candidates include any young man or woman, regardless of race, creed, or color, who will be a high school senior in September and has demonstrated leadership potential in school, church, or community service. They also should have a desire to develop his or her leadership potential and will contribute to making the conference a meaningful experience for others.

The conference features 5 ½ days of activities that include lectures and discussions of leadership skills, youth-related concerns, public issues, community service, career guidance, and recreational activities.

More information is available by contacting your local Rotary club.

1. The school should present your Club's Committee with a number of qualified candidates from which to select. Your committee should then interview and choose the best qualified students to represent that school and your club.
2. The students your Club selects to be its representatives must be high school students who will enter their senior class in September.
3. The following are offered as possible criteria to be used in your selection process:
 - a. **Leadership Potential:** Does the student demonstrate those qualities which might make him or her an effective leader?
 - b. **Leadership Experience:** Has the student had opportunities to practice leadership skills in real-life situations? (Look for officers of school organizations, class officers, athletic team captains, and extracurricular leadership experience in Scouts, church groups, etc.)
 - c. **Academic Ability:** What is the candidate's academic record?
 - d. **Extracurricular Activities:** Has the candidate been involved in extracurricular activities? Emphasize quality of involvement rather than quantity. Has he or she had a job after school, evenings, or on weekends?
 - e. **Questioning Thought:** Does the student think about things that he or she reads or hears, or does he or she accept things blindly?
 - f. **Articulation:** Is the candidate capable of expressing thoughts and feelings accurately, clearly, and effectively?
 - g. **Ability to Relate with Peers:** How easily does the candidate get along with others?
 - h. **Openness to this Experience:** Will the candidate be open and adaptive enough to embrace the philosophy of the Conference?
4. **Your Club would be wise to select "alternate candidates"** who will be prepared to attend the Conference in the event that any of your primary candidates could not attend. Last minute cancellations, and the problems that they cause, could thus be eliminated.
5. We are looking for interested, sincere, well-rounded, potential leaders. The selection of good conferees by Rotarians is a critical element in the success of the RYLA Program.

(See Interview Rating Chart)

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Interview Rating Chart

Designed merely as an aid to club interviewers.

Scholarships are awarded to students who will be seniors the following September. The young leaders are selected on the basis of leadership, personal values, intelligence and

promise of future success. The person selected will represent your club in a leadership training program with approximately 100 other leaders from other high schools. We hope you will select a young man or woman who will contribute to the total program and in the following year will make a positive contribution in school.

Applicant's Name _____

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Above Average</u>	<u>Average</u>
Intelligence	_____	_____	_____
Leadership	_____	_____	_____
Industry	_____	_____	_____
Citizenship	_____	_____	_____
Attitude	_____	_____	_____
Appearance	_____	_____	_____
Ability to articulate	_____	_____	_____

Remarks:

Interviewer

(See Guidelines for Selecting Conferees)
R.I. District 7280 RYLA

PLEASE DUPLICATE AS NEEDED