



March 26th-March 29th, 2009
(1:00 PM Thursday-12:30 PM Sunday)

To be held at:
The Salvation Army's
"Heart O' The Hills" Campground and Conference Center
Tahlequah, OK

Mike Rogers
District 6110
Chair, RYLA Committee
1220 E. Forest Dr.
Sand Springs, OK 74063

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To: District 6110 Club Presidents and Assistant Governors
From: Mike Rogers, Chair, RYLA Committee
Date: January 7, 2009
Subject: RYLA 2009

The 18th annual RYLA camp has been scheduled for March 26th-March 29th, 2009 and will be held at the Salvation Army's "Heart O' the Hills" facility located outside Tahlequah, Oklahoma. RYLA is specifically designed for class leaders in their junior (11th grade) year of high school. If your club is hosting a student from a foreign country as long as the individual is attending high school (10-12th grades), he or she may attend the RYLA camp with the permission and participation of the sponsoring club.

Please note camp starts on Thursday afternoon at 1:00PM and runs until Sunday afternoon at 12:30PM.

The cost of **\$260** per student will include all meals, snacks, lodging, seminar activities and materials, a ROPES course, entertainment, a dance and other activities/items. The clubs will need to provide transportation to and from the campsite near Tahlequah. Clubs are encouraged to participate by providing cabin chaperones or by attending any phase of camp activity. There is NO charge involved for Rotarians, spouses, or cabin chaperones. The counselors, who will work directly with the students, will come from the various universities within District 6110.

Enclosed please find materials pertaining to the 2008 RYLA camp that should provide information to assist you in selecting your student(s). We are requesting that each participating club: 1) send **OUTSTANDING** students who are currently in their junior year (grade 11) of high school; 2) possess **LEADERSHIP** characteristics upon which RYLA will build; and 3) who are the most and best **QUALIFIED** to receive the greatest benefit. Do not rule out a Rotarian's child. The qualification is leadership. Go for the very best young people you can find. The greatest single factor to insure success of RYLA rests totally upon the quality of the student(s) selected.

We must have **STUDENT APPLICATIONS, PARENT/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATIONS, ROPES COURSE LIABILITY RELEASE/HEALTH RECORDS** and **PAYMENT** completed and returned **BEFORE March 6th, 2009.** A definite headcount is required by this date in order to confirm camp and meal arrangements. The forms are attached and may be reproduced. Additional forms will be made available and can be downloaded and copied from the District 6110 web sit in PDF format.

The major responsibilities of the individual clubs are as follows:

1. Selection of participating student(s)
2. Completion and submission of necessary forms and payment (**\$260** per student)
3. Transportation of the student(s) TO and FROM the camp located outside Tahlequah, OK.

2008 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Purposes, Objectives, and Guidelines

RYLA camp is a youth retreat sponsored by District 6110 Rotarians to assist students through group learning situations enabling them to recognize the characteristics and responsibilities of LEADERSHIP. The greater any student actively participates in the entire agenda of activities the more benefit that particular student will receive.

Camp days are fast-paced and provide a wide cross section of specific LEADERSHIP activities geared to youth who have demonstrated an unusually high degree of LEADERSHIP potential. The RYLA experience serves as a gathering place for outstanding young people from around the district. The agenda is designed to add skills and refine innate LEADERSHIP instincts for those who attend. Every Rotary club in the district should make an effort to participate by sponsoring at least one student.

Professional instructors and materials used during RYLA will address timely concerns youth encounter in the peer-dominated school and social climate. This camp will not create “instant leaders”, but it will certainly provide worthy and memorable experiences for those who attend.

While RYLA is a well-established program throughout many parts of the Rotary world, this activity began only 16 years ago within our district. Camp will be fully staffed by responsible adults, most of whom are active Rotarians. **We will, in order to present a quality program accommodate approximately 180 students.** Please do not delay, however, in making a prompt selection of your RYLA student(s).

Please keep in mind all payments are non-refundable since we must make certain financial commitments immediately upon receipt of any student reservations. Instead of cancellations, try to provide an alternate student. In addition, we expect all students to attend the ENTIRE camp cycle. Medical emergencies (and we've never had one yet) will be handled by our on-site physician, nurse, or the hospital in Tahlequah.

All clubs are highly encouraged to participate in the RYLA experience by providing cabin chaperones. These individuals will stay in the ‘quad dorms’ with the students. Each quad can hold up to twelve students plus a chaperone with a private room. There are four quads per cabin. Chaperones can stay one night, two nights, or the entire weekend. There is no cost for chaperones but each should provide bedding materials such as sleeping bag, pillows, etc.

All students MUST be in their junior year (11th grade) of high school. Foreign exchange students however can attend with club sponsorship, as long as they are in high school, regardless of grade. No individual under the age of sixteen (16) years of age will be allowed to attend or participate in RYLA.

2009 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

An Opportunity to Excel

RYLA will be held from March 26th-March 29th, 2009 at the Salvation Army's 'Heart O' the Hills' camp near Tahlequah, OK. RYLA is for high school juniors (11th graders) who have shown potential in leadership in their school or community settings. RYLA is a well established and vital concept in our District 6110 as well as most of the rest of the Rotary world.

Basically RYLA is a four day retreat that involves outstanding students, professional instructors, and Rotary sponsors. The agenda is varied and fast-paced and includes a ROPES course. Several aspects of leadership will be highlighted. The planned activities are designed to build confidence, self-esteem, and the ability to work as a team. The learning environment is individualized to assure all participating students a truly successful and rewarding experience.

Students attending RYLA should return to their local settings better equipped to assume a positive leadership role. They will have a better understanding of themselves in leadership assignments. Those who have attended previous camps have given us some excellent feedback regarding the benefits they have derived, thus allowing us to continually improve the experiences for those following. This is a golden opportunity for young people from your area to work with other outstanding individuals from around the district where all are on an equal footing. For many, this will be the first time they have participated in this type of activity.

The local club's responsibility is relatively simple and involves a minimum of activity. You have sole selection freedom of who you choose to attend as long as the student(s) meet the criteria of being a high school junior (11th grade) and deserves the investment your club will be making in him/her. You are encouraged to select outstanding young people. They may be children of Rotarians, but should be selected on their own merits, not chosen simply because of their parents or, in the same manner, overlooked because their parent is a Rotarian.

Next your club is required to sponsor the student(s) financially. This includes pre-payment of the registration fee of **\$260** per student. Also, required is a commitment to provide transportation for the student(s) both TO and FROM the camp located near Tahlequah, OK (a map and camp regulations will be mailed to each student and club coordinator upon receipt of confirmation and payment). While some clubs may elect to allow students to drive their own vehicles; it is strongly recommended the clubs use this time to become more familiar with the student(s) by providing the transportation as a club function. Finally, your club will need to be sure the student(s) are aware of RYLA's purpose and to support the student(s) upon their return to include an opportunity to address your club with a report of follow-up presentation.

Give this serious consideration and respond accordingly if you have done so already. This will be an excellent RYLA camp, one that your student(s) will long remember. Meals, lodging and all materials are included in the registration cost. We hope each club will provide at least one student AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEL by attending the camp.

2009 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Student Selection Responsibilities and Suggestions

1. Publicize the program locally.
2. Solicit recommendations from previous campers, school officials, churches and other such organizations.
3. Establish club procedure and plans for reviewing recommendations. We recommend the following basic qualifications:
 - A. Be a high school junior (11th grade)
 - B. Have leadership experience or potential.
 - C. An individual of high moral and ethical character
 - D. Be cooperative and willing to participate as a member of a group.
 - E. Be well informed about current events and possess some ability in public speaking.
 - F. Perform well in school activities.
4. This co-educational activity requires 100% commitment from each student. Past experience has shown it is best not to send extremely close boy friends/girl friends since RYLA is not designed to enhance particular dating relationships but concentrate, instead, upon group activities and how to become a more complete individual. RYLA's success largely rests upon the quality of the students who attend. Club selection, therefore, is vital. Select wisely.
5. It is suggested the clubs select alternate candidates in the event some of those initially selected are not able to attend. Each club should consider there is not a particular stereotype individual who should be selected for this award. In the selection process, the potential should also be considered in addition to those who might already be in leadership positions.
6. Selected students must be able and willing to attend the ENTIRE camp, which runs from 1:00PM Thursday March 26th, 2009 through 12:30PM Sunday March 29th, 2009.

Upon selection of the student(s) your club will sponsor, please completed the following TWO (2) forms FOR EACH STUDENT and forward to **Mike Rogers, 1220 E. Forest Dr. Sand Springs, OK 74063** by March 6th, 2009. Your payment of **\$260** per camper should be presented prior to the arrival of the campers at Heart O' the Hills. Checks should be made payable to either District 6110 or RYLA. The two forms (front and back) are:

1. Student Application and Parent/Guardian Authorization
2. ROPES Course Liability Release and Health Record

2009 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Student Application (Form 1, Side 1)

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name: _____
Last First Initial Age Sex Shirt Size

Home Address: _____
Street City/State Zip Residence Phone #

School Information: _____
Name of School City/State Grade Point

E-Mail Address: _____

A. Club Memberships and offices held: _____

B. Favorite School Subjects: _____

C. Athletic and Special School Activities: _____

D. Career Ambitions: _____

E. Are you currently employed? _____ If so, what is your job?

Parent/Guardian Information:

Name: _____
Last First Initial Age Sex

Home Address: _____
Street City/State Zip Residence Phone #

Occupation: _____
Company or Business Firm Business Phone

2009 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Student/Parent/Guardian Authorization (Form 1, Side 2)

I hereby give permission for (student name): _____
to be treated by a physician and/or hospital while attending Rotary Leadership Awards
(RYLA) camp in Tahlequah, OK (March 26th-March 29th, 2009), should an accident or
injury occur.

List any allergic reactions of student:

Should you be unable to contact me at any number on the previous form, please contact
the following person at the number shown below:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

(Signature of Sponsoring Club Rotarian)

(Date)

STUDENT ACCEPTANCE:

**I agree to participate in the RYLA program and will
attend ALL sessions of camp, which runs from 1:00PM
Thursday March 26th through 12:30PM Sunday March
29th, 2009.**

(Signature of Student)

(Date)

2009 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

ROPES Course Liability Release (Form 2, Side1)

Any person using The Salvation Army ROPES course must sign this release.

The therapy provided by the Salvation Army ROPES course is designed to help participants develop leadership skills, coping strategies, improve self-esteem, learn the value of teamwork, and gain a sense of personal accomplishment. It is an especially effective means of promoting cooperation and cohesion among family members, classmates, members of social organizations and those involved in similar group activities.

Experienced professionals who have been thoroughly trained as facilitators of experiential therapy guide those who utilize the course through the program. Participants are invited to physically challenge themselves in a safe environment, develop creative problem-solving skills and discover the value of working with others to achieve goals. Absolutely no individual is ever forced or unduly coerced into participating. The ROPES course always offers challenges by student's choice.

The student whose name appears below requests participation in the Salvation Army's ROPES course to be organized and conducted at 'Heart O' the Hills' campground during the weekend of March 26th-March 29th, 2009. In consideration of this action in allowing the student to participate in such a course, the undersigned acknowledges that the ROPES course will necessarily involve participation in exercises which could be, by their nature, physically demanding and will subject the student to stress, anxiety, and possible hazards, not all of which can be foreseen. It is fully understood that the student could be climbing on cables, logs, ladders, walls, and beams which could be thirty (30) feet above the ground. All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect all participating students.

The undersigned assumes all of the ordinary risks normally incidental to the nature of the program including risks that are not specifically foreseeable. The undersigned also release any and all rights or claims against the Salvation Army, Rotary International, and any and all individuals assisting in and instructing and conducting the ROPES course, from all liability of any nature for any and all injuries, loss or damage suffered by the student during, or in any way connected with, these activities.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

2009 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

ROPES Course Liability Release-Health Record (Form 2, Side 2)

Any person using The Salvation Army ROPES course must sign this release.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

In case of emergency notify:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone(s): _____

Family Physician Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Health history: Please indicate any present or previous illness or accident which would affect your satisfactory participation in the ROPES course. This would include, but not be limited to: heart trouble; kidney disease; asthma; sinus trouble; rheumatic fever; epilepsy; hay fever; ear ache; tuberculosis; sever stomach ache; fainting spells; diabetes; diarrhea; menstrual problems; or pregnancy: _____

Do you tire or get out of breath easily? _____

Are you now taking any medication? Is so, please explain: _____

Statement: This health history is correct as far as I know and the student listed below has permission to engage in all prescribed activities, except as noted by either me or a physician. In the event the student is unable to otherwise give permission, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the leader in charge to hospitalize, secure proper anesthesia or to order injection or surgery for said student. This authorization covers only the RYLA activities from March 26th-March 29th, 2008.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)