Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program for community youth leaders. Young people chosen for their leadership potential attend an all-expenses-paid seminar to discuss leadership skills and to hone those skills through practice.

RYLA 2023 IS HAPPENING MAY 12 - 15, 2023

Candidates are sponsored by a Rotary club. Often the participating clubs will contact young adults that they know personally, either at a local school, at work or in the community. Candidate ages range from 18 to 30. Candidates are a variety of emerging leaders - coming from academics, sports, arts or other parts of the community. We have both verbal types and quiet ones who lead by their behaviour and by example. We welcome candidates that don't believe they are leaders and help them recognize that they are. . Candidates are approved by the committee, and applying is open to anyone who is interested in attending.

Since District 5050 clubs are in both Washington State and British Columbia, we have a mix of Americans and Canadians. There is no cost to the candidate as the sponsoring Rotary club pays the application fee. RYLA is typically held in either April or May. For RYLA 2023, it will be held at Zajac Ranch in Mission, BC May 12 - 15. For more information on the facility, visit their website at https://zajacranch.com.

RYLA has three expectations: ATTEND, PARTICIPATE and HAVE FUN! After RYLA It is our hope and expectation that participants will take the lessons learned from RYLA and apply them to their personal life and to their communities. We ask participants to share what they have learned and to lead others to better serve at work, home and/or in community activities. Once participants have completed RYLA, they attend one weekly Rotary meeting and share their thoughts about RYLA with the sponsoring club

What can I expect from RYLA?
RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, is an engaging 4 day leadership event that connects you with like-minded individuals. The program of RYLA will be provided on the first day of the program. You can expect a variety of speakers and activities that will help grow your leadership skills.

Who is RYLA for?
RYLA is for anyone between the ages of 18 – 30 that are emerging or already experienced leaders. We are strict with our age group, meaning you must be at least 18 years old by May 12, 2023.

How do I get selected to attend RYLA?
Generally participants are in contact with a local Rotary Club who will provide sponsorship and will vouch for your participation in RYLA. If you do not have a sponsoring Rotary Club, completing your registration form will be the first step in getting selected. The RYLA committee will then review the application and if you are successful, will work with you to find a sponsoring Rotary club. There are only 40 spots available for participants.

When is RYLA?
Friday May 12 to Monday May 15, 2023. Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive to others and does not give you the full benefit of the program. **As a condition of attending RYLA, you must commit to attend the 4 days of the program**.

Do I need to have anything for RYLA?
A specific packing list will be sent out to participants closer to the date. Participants should expect to bring toiletries, clothing for 4 days (warm clothing at night is recommended), close-toed shoes, sleeping bag and pillow.

Personal Item
Bring an item that tells something about you. i.e. musical instrument, craft, hobby, special interest, vocation etc. You may wish to use the item when introducing yourself on the first day of the program.

Personal Devices
Based on the location of the facility, cell service is limited. As a requirement of the program, we ask that participants do not use their devices for the duration of the event.