



Student Orientation

Please use the Power Point or PDF files, found on the RYLA website, along with the information in this document, for student orientation. Make sure you give all students the handouts with Bus Information (for their group only), Packing Information, and the Food Drive Information. If you have any questions, please contact the Participant Coordinator, Tracie Dreyer, at 775-209-6750 or thedreyers@mac.com.

- ★ What is RYLA?
 - ★ A 3-day leadership camp for students who have show potential leadership skills already.
 - ★ Chance to meet and network with other Interact and Rotary Clubs
 - ★ There will be plenary sessions and hands on labs, as well as a social night.
- ★ What Rotary is, and how Interact is associated with Rotary.
- ★ Rotarians are volunteers. Treat them with respect and be appreciative of what they have sacrificed to make your trip possible. (cost of RYLA, time to organize event, time to run the event). Be sure to thank Rotarians for the opportunity.
- ★ The reason Rotary pays for RYLA - to develop good, strong leaders with morals and ethics that Rotary believes in. Also, to foster the students knowledge or Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact.

- ★ In regards to schools, students/parents need to take care of the students excused absence (call in ahead of time). Every school treats this differently, and the students should make sure they handle their absence according to school rules.
- ★ There is no down time for homework - do not plan on bringing books with you.
- ★ Speak with your teachers ahead of time, allow for time to get caught up before you leave or after you return from camp.

- ★ Packing - Hand out the list of What to Bring & What Not to Bring, found on the RYLA website.
 - ★ Packing reminder - pack trash bags to cover your duffle bag, sleeping bag, and pillow. It could be raining when you arrive at RYLA. Have a piece of tape with your name on the outside of the trash bag.
 - ★ Dress in layers - it could snow, or rain, or it could be very warm. You will be both, inside and outside, many times during the day and night.
 - ★ No need for fancy clothes or formal attire. There will be no opportunity to wear them. You will want to be warm and comfortable.
 - ★ When we say bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and bath towel - WE REALLY MEAN IT!

- ★ Go over all details for bus departure:
 - ★ Hand out the bus schedule for your Rotary Club. It has the location and times. It also has important contact information.

- ★ Arrive early! The bus will leave on time and an alternate will be given your spot (no kidding)!
 - ★ When you check in, you will be given a name tag with valuable information for the weekend (dorm assignment, RYLA city & continent assignments). Do not lose your name tag!
 - ★ Once you check in, immediately load your bags and board the bus.
 - ★ Take the opportunity to spend time getting to know your fellow students, during the ride.
- ★ Upon arrival at RYLA you will unload your own luggage and place it in the group piles associated with your RYLA City. You may also need to carry your luggage to your cabin. Be prepared to carry it a few hundred yards. You will then meet with your City group and facilitator and be given an overview of what is to happen for the day. Lunch will happen soon.
- ★ Dorms:
- ★ Segregated by male and female. Also, no one over 18 years old will room with anyone under 18 years old. Rotary's youth protection is taken very seriously (details can be found on the Rotary website).
 - ★ Adults/Rotarians will be in the dorm facility, but not in the same rooms as students.
 - ★ Dorms will be locked during the day. In the morning, take with you everything you will need for the day.
 - ★ You do need a sleeping bag and pillow. You will be sleeping on a camp bed.
 - ★ The bathrooms are like at school - multiple people using them at once. Again, no adults will be mixed with the students in either the bathrooms or the sleeping areas.
 - ★ The dorms are older, and can get cold. Be prepared with warm sleeping clothes.
 - ★ There is no room for "primping" in the bathrooms. Pack your shower essentials in a shower bag, and be prepared to do the rest of your "primping" in the dorm rooms.
- ★ Other items of interest:
- ★ There is no need for spending money. There is nothing to buy at camp, and the buses will not be stopping anywhere.
 - ★ Elevation is 7-8 thousand feet. Stay hydrated!
 - ★ There will be a physician on site. Any students who submitted medical concerns on their applications, their information will be provided to the physician.
 - ★ Students taking medications are responsible for their own medications.
 - ★ After RYLA, students should make it their priority to visit their sponsoring Rotary Club and give a report on their weekend at RYLA. Be sure to thank the club for sponsoring you!
 - ★ Hand out the flier about the food drive, found on the website.