

# Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

## Leadership and Character Building for Young People

### What is RYLA?

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) programme is an intensive training experience for young people aged between 14 and 30.

Nominated young people attend a residential seminar, camp, or workshop of three to seven days in duration, organised by Rotary and run by professional activity instructors in a specialised environment. Participants' expenses are often paid by sponsoring Rotary clubs as part of their investment in the future of our young people.

The RYLA programme is highly varied and combines organisational, physical and sporting activities, as well as offering opportunities to develop discussion, social and leadership skills.

The residential and group-oriented scenario enables young people to debate issues of professional responsibility and human relations, improve leadership and communication skills, learn about businesses and institutions, and meet Rotarians while having a great deal of fun and making friends for life. For young adults, RYLA provides the opportunity to refine skills and explore pertinent topics with their peers and elders.

For Rotarians, RYLA offers the chance to help develop leaders, share valuable expertise and bridge the gap between generations.

### Who can participate in RYLA?

RYLA events are for young adults who wish to explore and develop their leadership skills. RYLA students must be prepared for a range of tough physical challenges – e.g. getting wet, problem solving and group leadership situations – and being ready to learn about their own strengths and areas for development.

Nobody 'fails' a RYLA. Students take out of it whatever they are prepared to put into it and usually a lot more. Attending a RYLA course has often been one of those early life-changing experiences.

Whether you are a secondary school student, university student or young professional, RYLA provides a unique opportunity to learn, grow, have fun and make new friends.

The RYLA experience allows young people to develop, practice and experiment with team and leadership skills, which are such valuable assets in today's society. RYLA prepares young people to be valuable members of the community, profession, club or organisation and for other aspects of everyday life.

### What does RYLA offer?

During a RYLA programme, you will:

- gain exposure to issues and exchange ideas with other talented people like you.
- push yourself to your limits and beyond on physical activities. You'll achieve great things.

- learn how to coordinate activities and community service projects in your community.
- discuss creative approaches for resolving family, social, and professional conflicts.
- learn about other Rotary programmes for young people.

### RYLA will help you to:

- develop leadership skills
- increase self-confidence
- gain exposure to a variety of issues and meet lots of new people
- improve career skills and knowledge
- meet community leaders and mentors.

### International Opportunities

RYLA is a Rotary International programme and international opportunities exist to attend courses in many parts of the world.

### Do You Need More Information?

More details and full support for participation in any of these programmes can be obtained from the Youth Service Chairman of your local Rotary club.

Rotary club contact details  
Rotary Club of:

.....

Youth Service Chairman

Rotarian:.....

Tel No:.....

Email:.....

[www.rotarygbi.org/youthryla@rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org/youthryla@rotarygbi.org)

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for its work with children, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability.

- The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and persons with disability take priority.
- It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of his or her ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact in their Rotarian duties.

Rotarians should refer to the detailed "RIBI Protection Policy" when planning events and activities.

Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland  
Kinwarton Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6PB  
T: 01789 765411 f: 01789 764916  
[info@rotarygbii.org](mailto:info@rotarygbii.org)  
[www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org)