



Officially adopted by Rotary International in 1971, RYLA is one of the most significant and fastest-growing programs of Rotary service. Each year, thousands of young people take part in the program worldwide. The impact spreads further as the program influences other young people, and RYLA programs often lead to the formation or strengthening of Rotaract and Interact clubs.

What is RYLA?

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, camp, or workshop to discuss leadership skills and to learn those skills through practice.

Rotary International has always recognized the need for development of young leaders in our many Rotary nations. To achieve this, R. I. has adopted the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Program to encourage and assist young people in the development of their leadership skills.

Under the general guidance of the R. I. RYLA committee, most of the 528 Rotary districts in the world sponsor this program, directed by a local district committee to adapt the RYLA program to suit local needs. Some districts conduct the program for high school age youth, others concentrate on the under 30 years old group, some conduct the program as a week-long retreat while others operate the program over a week-end period. Each program, however, is designed to provide lifetime leadership skills for young people, adapted to local needs. Each RYLA participant is selected by local Rotary Clubs. Therefore, if you would like to participate in the program, or know of someone who should be considered for the program, please communicate directly with your local or nearest Rotary Club. The names and addresses of all clubs can be found at www.Rotary.org.

To everyone who is or has participated as a Rotary leader in this program, I say "thank you." To everyone who is or has participated as RYLarian, I say "congratulations" and may you use your acquired skills to the betterment of our world. To everyone who would like to be a part of this exciting venture, I say "welcome". Today's leaders were yesterday's youth; Tomorrow's leaders are today's youth.

Abraham I. Gordon, PRIVP

Every RYLA includes the following topics:

- ✧ Fundamentals of leadership
- ✧ Ethics of positive leadership
- ✧ Importance of communication skills in effective leadership
- ✧ Problem-solving and conflict management
- ✧ Rotary's purpose and service to the community
- ✧ Building self confidence and self-esteem
- ✧ Elements of community and global citizenship

RYLA aims to:

- 🌐 Demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth;
- 🌐 Provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders;
- 🌐 Encourage leadership of youth by youth;
- 🌐 Recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities.