



Rotary District 7490

2008 RYLA Representative Handbook

Bryn Mawr Mountain Conference Center
Honesdale, Pennsylvania

June 1-6, 2008

Key Deadlines:

**RYLA Reservation Form with Candidate Fee: A.S.A.P.
(First come, first serve)**

All Other Forms: May 6

RYLA Review

What Is RYLA?

RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Award, a program sponsored by your local Rotary Club for students entering their senior year of high school in September. RYLA participants attend an all expense paid, six day workshop, focusing on leadership, team-building and professional development topics. They join other talented young people selected by the Rotary Clubs of District 7490, in northern New Jersey.

The Objects Of RYLA

- To demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth.
- To publicly recognize and nurture the high qualities of the many young people who are rendering service to their communities as youth leaders.
- To stimulate and cultivate the leadership potential in youth.
- To provide meaningful leadership training experience for youth, through programs such as sports, group discussion, guest speakers, and career guidance.

Conference Capsule

Sunday, June 1 through Friday, June 6, 2008

The Bryn Mawr Mountain Retreat and Outdoor Education Center
Honesdale, Pa (www.brynmawrmountain.com)

\$510 per Participant (Paid by Sponsoring Rotary Club)

For Students Entering Their Senior Year of High School In September 2008.

Ryla Conference Reservation Form

NAME OF ROTARY CLUB

We wish to reserve space for _____ students at the District 7490 Rotary Youth Leadership Award Conference to be held at Bryn Mawr Mountain Retreat from June 1 to June 6, 2008.

We are enclosing a check in the amount of \$_____, payable to "**RYLA - District 7490**", to cover the Conference fee of \$510 per participant. We understand that in the event a student cannot attend due to illness or for emergency reasons and a replacement cannot be found, refunds will be made at the discretion of the District 7490 RYLA Committee, provided the District RYLA Chairperson is notified by May 15, 2008.

RYLA CLUB REPRESENTATIVE

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

REP EMAIL ADDRESS

(____)_____
CELL

(____)_____
HOME

(____)_____
BUSINESS

(____)_____
FAX

DATE

SIGNATURE OF CLUB PRESIDENT OR RYLA REP.

Return this form A.S.A.P. with your Club's check to:

Sharon Weiss
Alpha Trading & Supply
219 Montgomery Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

RYLEA 7490 Student Participatory Contract

The success of the Rotary District 7490 Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program is contingent upon each and every participant starting and completing the program at the same times. While the RYLA Committee and Program Facilitators will make few and minor exceptions for late arrivals and early departures, (no later than 5:00 PM Sunday and no earlier than 8:00 AM Friday), this is highly discouraged. Your sponsoring Rotary Club has paid a significant fee for your full week participation. The integrity and effectiveness of the program is diminished for ALL students when a few break the continuity of events.

I, _____ (the RYLA participant), agree to the following:

- 1) I will start the RYLA program on Sunday, June 1, 2008, and be at the Fair Lawn High School at 8:00 AM EST for bus departure, (barring extenuating circumstances to be approved by the RYLA Committee).
- 2) I will complete the RYLA program, leaving no earlier than Friday, June 6, 2008 at 8:00 AM EST (again, to be approved by the RYLA Committee).
- 3) I will remain at the program for its full duration, from June 1 to June 6, with no interim departures.
- 4) If I do not arrive or leave at the designated arrival/departure times I am responsible for providing my own transportation.

This form is to be signed by the participating student, their parent (or guardian), and Rotary Club sponsor.

_____ Student Signature

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature

_____ Rotary Club Sponsor

RYLEA Representative Checklist

Are you a little confused about your RYLEA responsibilities? Relax, here's a rundown of dates, dollars and duties necessary to get RYLEA 2008 off and running.

Early Spring

I. Confirm with your participating high schools the date and location of this year's RYLEA conference:

- Sunday, June 1 through Friday June 6, 2008.
- Bryn Mawr Mountain Retreat and Outdoors Education Center - Honesdale, PA

II. After receiving your "**RYLEA 2008 Representative Handbook**", DO the following immediately:

1. Write your Rotary Club name on the following:
RYLA Reservation Form
RYLA Parental Consent Form
Bryn Mawr Camp Consent Form
2. Make multiple copies of the:
RYLA Parental Consent Form
Bryn Mawr Camp Consent Form
RYLA Participatory Contract

III. Guaranteeing Your Candidate's Place At The Conference

1. Fill out your RYLEA Conference Reservation Form after confirming with your club the number of students it will sponsor.
2. Kidnap your club treasurer's family and threaten not to release them until he/she writes the check for the conference (\$510 per student). Sorry, no partial payments accepted.
3. Now that you have the check in hand, send it and the reservation form **A.S.A.P.** to:

Sharon Weiss
Alpha Trading & Supply
219 Montgomery Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 200-1144

IV. Recruit Your High School Junior Applicants Early

- Different clubs have different criteria and techniques for selecting candidates. Refer to enclosed "RYLA Guidelines for Selecting Conferees".
- Once selected, confirm with the student's school administration of your selection.
- Make sure all selected candidates receive a copy of the "**RYLA Candidates Handbook**".

Spring

- V. Have **accepted** RYLA candidate students fill out the "RYLA Parental Consent Form," "Bryn Mawr Camp Consent Form," and "Rotary District 7490 RYLA Participatory Contract" forms by late April and return **A.S.A.P.** to **YOU for review** and then immediately forward to:

Greg Liss
219 Long Hill Rd
Little Falls, NJ 07424
(973) 237-1444

It is your responsibility to see that all information is completed. Any omissions on the forms will result in the forms being returned to you for completion. No candidates will be permitted without signed consent.

Candidate acceptance letters with RYLA details can not be sent until all information is received.

- VI. The most rewarding part of the RYLA week is the celebration held on Friday, June 6, 2008 at 6:30PM. We hope that you and other members of your club can attend and witness the culmination of a great week. The celebration will be held in the auditorium of Fair Lawn High School.

RYLA Candidate Selection Guidelines

1. The high school should present your Rotary Club with two or three times the number of qualified candidates you plan to select. Your Committee should then interview and choose the most qualified students to represent that school and your Club.

2. The students your Club selects to be its representatives MUST be high school students who will enter their Senior year in September.
3. The following considerations are offered as *possible* criteria to be used in your selection process:
 - Leadership Potential - Those qualities which might make him/her an effective leader.
 - Leadership Experience - Has the student had opportunities to practice leadership skills in real life situations? (Look for officers of school organizations, class officers, athletic team captains, and extracurricular leadership experience such as Scouts, Church Groups, etc.)
 - Academic Ability -Academic performance in school.
 - Extracurricular Activities - Emphasize quality of involvement rather than quantity. Has he/she participated in any community activities? Does he/she have a job after school, evenings, or weekends?
 - Ability to Question - Does the student think about things that he/she reads or hears, or does he/she accept things blindly?
 - Articulation - Is the candidate capable of expressing thoughts and feelings accurately, clearly, and effectively.
 - Ability to Relate with Peers - How easily does the candidate get along with others?
 - Openness to the Conference Experience - Will the candidate be open and adaptive enough to embrace the philosophy of the RYLA Conference (significant peer interaction).
4. Your Club would be very wise to select "Alternate Candidates" who will be prepared to attend the Conference in the event that any of your primary candidates could not attend. Last minute cancellations and the problems that they cause could be eliminated with the selection of Alternates.
5. We are looking for interested, sincere, well-rounded potential leaders. The selection of good Conference participants by Rotarians is the critical element in the success of the RYLA Program.