

FAQ's, Comments & Answers

What is RYLA?

Rotary Youth Leadership Award

What age group?

19 – 27-year-olds. At least one year out of school with some life skills before attending RYLA.

What's it all about?

7 day residential personal and professional development week for young adults identified as future leaders in their workplace or community.

The D9660 RYLA program follows Rotary International guidelines with delivery of the program based on the Rotary 4 Way Test.

Who runs the Camp?

RYLA is facilitated by young adults who are RYLA Alumni. The peer-led delivery of the program has been praised for being relatable, genuine and easy to connect with. Peer presenters consistently outperform authority figures when it comes to motivation, engagement and resilience.

Graduates apply for Leader positions for the following year.

Leaders then apply for the Leader's Leader position in their third year.

There is a Management Committee of Rotarians overseeing the entire program.

What happens there?

Mixture of seminars, inspirational speakers, physical team building activities, communication and connection, empowering young adults in a safe space. We create an environment for young adults to reassess their values and give them the tools to learn and grow in a work and community space.

What type of young person would be suitable?

A young person who shows potential in their workplace or community.

They may be quiet, introverted, or outgoing and boisterous.

They may be involved in sport, social or church groups, independent or living at home. They could be from a minority group or in tertiary education.

Diversity is the key to creating an inclusive learning environment that promotes kindness and understanding.

However, we are not a “fixit” Camp. This is not the environment for young adults with complex needs. There are other options for those needing professional assistance.

What is the cost?

The cost is determined by the venue. We need to cover the cost of accommodation, catering, activities, formal dinner, coach hire (for dinner) for all participants and the management committee. There is also printing, stationery, equipment, uniform costs and some travel and accommodation for our guest speakers. To obtain exclusivity of some venues we must pay for minimum numbers, which on occasion we need to pay the shortfall.

Why don't you run RYLA during Uni holidays?

Simply because university timetables rarely align. Venue bookings need to be secured at least 12 months in advance, whereas Uni semester dates are not always available at time of booking. Participants are allowed free time to complete any set tasks or study during the week.

What determines the location of the Camp?

Isolation, away from built up areas, on-site accommodation, catering, conference facilities, organised physical team building activities delivered by professional facilitators with proximity to a centre with an established Rotary Club to host a formal dinner.

Why do you take their phones away?

This is to foster communication between participants and maintain a total focus on the seminars and guest speakers who give freely of their time. They have access to their phones at a specified time each day. If they have a genuine reason for keeping their phone, such as CGM Diabetes monitoring they are certainly able to do so. Most participants are hesitant to hand over their phones upon registration, however, the large majority cite being without their phone is one of the most positive outcomes of the entire week.

Are these Leaders trained?

There is a comprehensive Leader training program. This involves training in all facets of the program from the aspect of being a group leader. Particular attention is given to Youth Protection, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Positive Duty among other things. This training is compulsory. We have a duty of care to all.

Why should we sponsor somebody?

Rotarians are only too willing to assist with projects locally, nationally and internationally. However, as an organization, Rotary is aging. On the conveyor belt of life Rotary has been neglectful in encouraging young adults to commit to a life of service to our communities through Rotary. These young people are happy to volunteer, happy to assist, but need an opportunity to do so. Those Clubs who have continually sponsored RYLA participants have reaped the benefits of some becoming members of Rotaract or Rotary. RYLA is an investment in the future of an individual, an employee, your community and on occasion your Rotary Club.

"We don't have anybody in our area."

Do your professional offices, banks, post office, accountants have staff?

What about your local Council?

Your mechanic, local plumber, soccer club, barista, hairdresser, church.

Childcare, disability support worker, stock and station agent, apprentice carpenter.

Do any of your members have children, grandchildren, neighbours?

They are there, you see them every day, they just need an opportunity to shine.

“As an employer, we paid for them to go to RYLA, then they left.”

Yes, that does happen on occasion. Treating people well and upskilling them can help them feel valued and more effective. But they still may leave to continue study, gain a better position or fulfill a dream. Be glad you have been part of building a young adult's self-worth.

Sir Richard Branson - "Train people well enough so they can leave, treat them well enough so they don't want to".

Henry Ford – »The only thing worse than training your employees and having them leave is not training them and having them stay.

“We sponsor them and never hear from them again.”

Maintain contact. Make sure your Club asks them to come to do an introduction before they go and a presentation after returning from RYLA. Ask them to assist with projects or fundraising. Involve them in finding RYLA candidates going forward. Offer flexible membership. Invite them to Club events.

What are some of the things that are covered at RYLA?

Topics

- Your comfort zone
- Self-awareness
- Identity
- Values and principles
- Pillars of purpose
- Perception and reality
- Life purpose
- Vision
- Direction
- Future self
- Leadership styles
- Natural strengths
- Desired self-perception
- Goal setting/action/accountability
- Joy of leadership
- Legacy/giving back
- The objects of Rotary - to encourage and foster the ideals of service as a basis of worthy enterprise

Guest Speakers

- Adding value to your community (introduction to Rotary projects)
- Volunteering using your occupation
- Money matters
- What employers want
- Mental health/yours and your team
- Public speaking
- Conflict Resolution
- Diversity, equity and inclusion (being different and accepting that difference)
- Dining etiquette (readiness for official dinner and other career advancement settings)
- Choices for life (drugs/alcohol/driving)

- Motivational speaker/s (positivity against adversity)
- Self-acceptance
- Emotional intelligence

What will the participant expect to take away from the week?

- Exchange ideas, opinions and plans with talented energetic people in a supportive atmosphere, free from pressure and distraction.
- Discover ways to become better role models and face decisions on important personal, work and social issues.
- Develop close rapport with local Rotary Clubs acquainting them with the idea of service to the community.
- For participants it is probably the only time in their entire life they can concentrate solely on themselves to plan their future.

Where do we find out information about RYLA?

- Application forms and brochure available on D9660 webpage
- Follow D9660 RYLA Facebook Page
- Follow D9660 Member's Facebook Page
- Attend D9660 Showcase and Conference
- Email: ryla9660@gmail.com

Since 1970 in our Rotary District, RYLA provides the opportunity to extend leadership skills and assists with personal growth. It is a powerful program for personal and business success. RYLA develops community Leaders.

The program is brilliant, the results outstanding, the experience is life changing.