



To Parents of Students who would like to Participate in RYLA leadership Camp.

Information for you about RYLA.

- **RYLA Curriculum:** RYLA is a retreat for students that focuses on the development of our individual students. Your student will be building the skills most sought after by colleges and by employers. While we have great rubrics attached to our defined outcomes, brain research tells us that the best way for students to learn is to have them do. So we have no guest speakers or lectures. Instead, students are engaged in practicing the Power Skills (aka soft skills), then reflecting, discussing, etc.

The most sought-after Power Skills and the ones we will be honing in on are: Self-Awareness & Respect for Differences, Verbal & Nonverbal Communication, Critical Thinking & Decision-Making, Creativity & Innovation, Teamwork, Problem-Solving & Adaptability, Continuous Learning & Initiative, Resource Management, Collaboration & Conflict Resolution, Navigating Pressure & Ambiguity, Leadership & Influence.

- **Retreat Staff:** The staff is comprised of Rotarians (professionals committed to serving the community) and former attendees.
- **Retreat necessities:** In order to help your student develop these skills through brain-based strategies, we must also use the same type of research to create an environment that is conducive to learning. Our incredible human bodies and brains are hard-wired to take on challenges, process them, and adapt. Our goal for the retreat is to help your student become a confident, self-aware person of good character. And... we can do it, but we need your support to create a space where students can stay immersed in the activities. We just ask that students be given an opportunity for a retreat environment (to the extent that it is possible) and that they disconnect from their usual activities as much as possible. They will grow so much as well as have the experience of a lifetime. For an experience to be transformative, one must enter a 'new' environment.
- **What to do about conflicts with the schedule:** We do *require* that students participate during the *entire* retreat (check-in to check-out). If you foresee having a conflict during the week (this includes leaving early and leaving during RYLA and coming back), please notify us right away so we can select and contact an alternate as soon as possible. Each day and each activity builds on the day/activity before it. Not being there means missing some critical parts of the retreat.

Additional Information

Please reply to this email with your email acknowledgment of the following: (Just a quick: "Got it" or something like that is fine.)

By emailing your acknowledgement, you are confirming that 1) you understand your student has been selected to attend a leadership retreat, 2) this retreat is sponsored by Rotary International and the individual clubs in Rotary District 5320, 3) this retreat is provided to your student at no cost to you or his or her school because Rotary covers all costs, 4) that you are committed to making sure your student attends RYLA for 2024.

RYLA Retreat Rules

- Attend all sessions, be on time, and participate fully.
- Be considerate and respectful of others.
- This is meant to be an experience away from the rest of the world. We want you to experience your experience, not worry about documenting it. Please enjoy this opportunity to disconnect from everything else and allow yourself to engage in the activities and with others from across the state.

Time commitment for Campers

Sunday April 12 Zoom 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Friday to Sunday: Friday, April 17 to Sunday April 19, 2026

in Person (all day) - Students will leave from Tustin at 8:30AM Friday and return Sunday at 4PM.

For More Information Visit: <https://ryla5320.org/>