

## What is RYLA?



**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** is a program to assist high school students in developing leadership skills. The program centers on an intense, professionally led, four-day leadership training retreat. Rotary District 5470 (covering the southern half of Colorado) holds its retreat weekend during the summer at the Colorado Mountain College Spring Valley Campus located near Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

**What Happens at the Leadership Retreat Weekend?** The RYLA Retreat weekend provides a series of professionally developed presentations and activities that takes participants through a process of assessing their personal leadership characteristics, and understanding the ethics of leadership and setting personal goals. It then teaches leadership through interpersonal skills, working effectively with diverse peers in conflict resolutions and consensus building, as well as organizational planning, and recognizing and working with support networks.

**How much does RYLA Cost?** RYLA does not cost the student anything. The “Awards” in the RYLA name refers to the scholarships that are awarded by Rotary and/or locally supporting businesses that sponsor RYLA scholarships through the local Rotary Clubs. If you are willing to sponsor a scholarship, please let us know at [RYLA@RYLA5470.org](mailto:RYLA@RYLA5470.org) and we will connect you with a local club in your community. Scholarships are \$350 each.

**How are students selected to participate?** Students are nominated to a local Rotary Club in the district. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website at [www.RYLA5470.org](http://www.RYLA5470.org) or can be provided by your local Rotary Club. The Rotary Club RYLA Chair interviews students and selects the recipients of the awards. Most communities sponsor three awards each year from their community.

**Who should attend RYLA?** RYLA is designed to work with students that are starting to show signs of leadership, or the potential for leadership, in their communities. Successful applicants are in good standing at school and are actively involved with clubs, sports teams, or community groups. Generally participants are in the summer between Sophomore or Junior year in High School, but mature incoming freshman are welcome as well.

**What else is RYLA?** The RYLA program is an opportunity to meet and build friendships with fellow student leaders from around the state as well as getting to know the Rotarian leaders in your community. Rotary is based on a foundation that Fellowship, by getting to know each other, opens opportunities for service that will make our communities better places to live, as well as promoting peace and better understanding world wide. An important part of RYLA is building these relationships – and most clubs will meet with students 2-3 times after the retreat to follow-up on what was learned at the retreat and how to apply that leadership in school, family, and friends.