

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Update

To date we have reservations for 18 Rotary Family students to include five Inbound Youth Exchange Students, two club sponsored students, and three reservations (via submitted club commitment forms.) At 23, we're nearly half way there!

Selection Process and Deadlines

Family of Rotarians had priority through 12/31/19. Those whose reservations were submitted by 12/31/19 are guaranteed a place at camp if their \$200 fee is paid by April 1, 2020. Either the family or the family club may pay for these students; invoices will be sent to the club.

Club sponsored students are to be vetted by the club and therefore considered approved and may attend camp with no further selection action. Their fees must be paid by April 1, 2020. Invoices will be sent to the clubs.

At-large students, those nominated by schools and outside organizations have until March 2, to submit their applications. Their applications will be scored by committee, and the lucky chosen will be notified soon after. Their fees will be paid by RYLA through additional club sponsorship and/or fundraising, e.g. One club has elected to sponsor one student from their high school and one "at-large" student to be selected through the scoring process.

Club Commitment Forms

If your club plans to recruit a student or two, please inform the RYLA committee ASAP. There will only be 50 students at RYLA this year and you have seen above that we are at 23 so far. We wish to reserve space for your students as they receive second priority after family of Rotarians. Applications are due by March 2, 2020, yet reservations now are greatly appreciated. Club Commitment Forms are located on the RYLA web page or [click here](#).

Informational recruiting emails have been sent to all high schools in the district as well as college-bound and youth mentoring organizations. We expect a good number of nominations this year; likely for more than we have space.

RYLA Presentations

District RYLA Chair Lori Benton has visited at least 20 clubs so far and intends to visit many more before the March application deadline. For ten minutes or 30, Lori will share the committee's vision for RYLA 2020. Contact her if you wish for a club visit.

Ryla Fundraising

Ryla is a club and committee-funded activity. Student fees no longer cover all expenses (expect an increase to \$300 for 2021). Additional fund raising will occur. Club presidents please expect an email outlining sponsorship opportunities to share with your membership.

We're finalizing the camp curriculum and it will be jam packed with self-discovery, lessons in leadership, and fun! Take a peek at some of the weekend camp activities - [click here](#).

Volunteers/Camp Counselors

Ryla is a district activity and therefore benefits from all district members in one way or another. Some of you are on the planning committee. Some of you offered great feedback and suggestions. A few already have volunteered to help at camp. We thank you all.

Ten volunteers will be needed per day of the three-day camp to help it run smoothly. We are taking names now. You may volunteer for as little as three-hours up to the entire weekend. All volunteers will need to complete a background check and will require a bit of camp orientation. Four men and four women are required to stay overnight each night. We are recruiting Rotaract students to be camp counselors and will also accept Rotarians under age 30 to be camp counselors as well. As opportunity remains, volunteers may choose their camp responsibility. Choices are:

Camp registration and orientation – create/develop/implement process to help campers check-in, receive needed materials and information, and be shown to their cabin.

Sergeant at Arms – to be assigned per programming segment, see to it that the room is set up, all equipment and materials are at hand, the facilitator has all he/she needs, students are settled in, and general keeper of the peace.

Mentor – general oversight for congeniality, helping all students feel included, answer questions, serve as runners, etc.

Medic – we will need one licensed medical professional per day to include overnight.

Camp Counselor – the fifty students will be divided into small groups with one camp counselor. The counselor is responsible for positive small group behavior, leading discussions, and team building. This is an all-three-day camp responsibility. Overnight is elective.

Volunteer At-Large – this volunteer position is basically for extra hands, to act as a floater.

Bike Assembly Assistant – if this programming is funded, we will want at least ten folks to help the 14 student groups assemble their bikes (video training provided.)

Facilitator/Teacher – some of the weekend programming will need to be taught and facilitated by skilled Rotarians. Lead or assist, this is an important volunteer position.

As you can see, RYLA 2020 is coming along and we are looking forward to district-wide participation. Maybe your club could be the volunteers for a half day? It would be remarkable to have a volunteer from each club over the course of the weekend. However it works out, we too will be making new friends, learning new things, and impacting the youth of our district.

Please direct all questions to:
Rotary District 5650 RYLA Chair
Lori Benton
ryla@rotarydistrict5650.org
404-694-0846.

RYLA web page on the District Website – [click here](#).