

**RYLA APPLICATION (1 of 4)**

**RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Conference**

Sponsored by Rotary District 7210: "The Heart of the Hudson Valley"  
(Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, & Ulster Counties)

**Sunday, July 7, 2024 – Thursday, July 11, 2024**  
Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY

**\*\*FOR SOPHOMORE STUDENTS ONLY\*\***

\_\_\_\_\_ invites you to apply to become a scholarship  
(Name of sponsoring club)

participant in this year's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Conference.

**Sponsoring Club's Contact Information:**

Rotarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your completed application, with all requested attachments, to your Rotarian contact (above) no later than:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(RYLA Application Due Date)

Your completed RYLA application must include...

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- Personal Statement (See "Required Attachments")
- 1 Letter of Recommendation (See "Required Attachments")
- High School Transcript, to date (See "Required Attachments")

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**WHAT IS THE ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS CONFERENCE?**

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Conference is a program for high school sophomores who have shown leadership potential in their home, school, and community. The conference is designed to introduce participants to thoughts and ideas that will strengthen and develop their leadership skills. At RYLA, conferees are encouraged to share their personal experiences and perspectives in powerful conversations about various topics, providing insightful learning opportunities. It also provides an environment where participants feel comfortable discussing their thoughts and ideas with other students from the Mid-Hudson Valley. The conference lasts five days and is held on the campus of Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY.

**THE PROGRAM INCLUDES...**

Personal assessment	Goal setting	Delegating	Time management
Communication and listening	Public speaking	Problem solving	Team building
Compromising	Setting priorities	Interpersonal relationships	Brainstorming

**RYLA ACTIVITIES**

Group Projects: Each student will be a member of a group during the conference. Each group works on a project that provides hands-on experience with planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Small Group Activities: Discussion-based activities are held to share and explore notions of leadership.

Social Time: There is space in the program for organized athletic activities, dancing, and developing friendships with other participants.

**IN ORDER TO ATTEND RYLA, THE APPLICANT MUST...**

1. Be a sophomore ready to enter their junior year in the fall
2. Have shown demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community
3. Demonstrate the qualities of a good student
4. Submit a completed application
5. Be selected and sponsored by your local Rotary Club

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**COVID-19 ADDENDUM (UPDATED 1/2024)**

At the time of the release of this application, the District RYLA Committee is planning to host an in-person RYLA 2024 Conference. While we are optimistic, please note that our planning will be consistent with current health and safety regulations; in other words, should it be deemed unsafe for the conference to proceed as planned, we will alter our plans accordingly.

Should it be deemed unsafe to host an overnight, in-person conference come the beginning of July, our committee is prepared to host a modified in-person conference. Rotary clubs and selected conference attendees alike will be kept updated regarding any changes to the conference format. Information will be disseminated via your student email address, should you be selected to attend RYLA 2024.

**Currently, it is not required that participants be vaccinated or boosted against COVID-19 for the RYLA 2024 conference.** This decision is aligned with current state and local guidelines and the Mount Saint Mary College COVID-19 policy, found [here](#). In order to protect the health of our staff and conferees, vaccines and boosters are *strongly recommended* as a precaution. We also encourage participants to test before attending and participants may mask at their discretion, though neither will be required.

Should any attendees begin to exhibit signs of COVID-19 during the conference, they will be required to leave the conference and may return with proof of a negative COVID-19 test with no prevailing symptoms. The need for additional students to leave the RYLA conference based upon exposure will be made at the discretion of the RYLA Committee on an as-needed basis.

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Rotary Club Information

<b>Sponsoring Rotary Club:</b>	WEST POINT HIGHLAND FALLS ROTARY CLUB
<b>Rotarian Contact</b>	Stephen Scott
<b>Home contact phone #:</b>	845-521-4526
<b>Work contact phone #:</b>	

Student Last Name, First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address (Note: Please use a NON-school affiliated email address):  
\_\_\_\_\_

This student, \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to apply to and be a participant in this conference. I understand that acceptance to be a participant in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference obligates the student to attend the entire conference. I also understand that participation may be terminated for inappropriate behavior, violation of conference rules and regulations, or for possession of an unpermitted property.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Home phone number of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Cell phone number of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Work phone number of parent/guardian)

**REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

1. Briefly describe your (1) participation and (2) leadership experiences in your extracurricular activities, service, and employment, as well as the reasons why you are interested in attending this conference.
2. Submit **one** letter of recommendation from a teacher, administrator, or community leader who can comment on your accomplishments and/or potential.
3. Submit a copy of your school transcript indicating your coursework and grades for freshman and sophomore year, to date.

### **Your Next Steps...**

Once you've submitted your application, if you are selected the registration timeline is as follows:

- You will receive an email from [ryla7210@gmail.com](mailto:ryla7210@gmail.com) about your selection and required registration materials. Please complete these materials by their deadlines, or you may lose your seat at RYLA 2024:
  - ◆ The completion of a Health Form (this form must be signed by your health provider, which can include your school nurse. An updated physical within 1 year of the conference may be used in lieu of the Health Form). **[Due 6/15/2024]**
  - ◆ The completion of the Registration Form where you will provide your group preference and parent/guardian permission. **[Due 6/1/2024]**
- A couple weeks after you complete the Registration Form, you will receive a call from your Junior Counselor who will outline what to expect at the conference, as well as items to bring and the details of your group. Your Junior Counselor may answer any questions you and your parents/guardians have and will remain in contact with you leading up to the conference.