Student Orientation

Rotary Youth Leadership Award

District 5300, Rotary International

December 4-6, 2026

Camp Cedar Crest

Running Springs, CA

AGENDA

- Welcome Students & Parents
- Introductions of Rotarians
- Goals of RYLA
- What to Expect
- What to Bring to RYLA
- What Not to Bring to RYLA
- Q&A

Welcome to RYLA

- **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** is an intensive training program for community youth leaders. Local high school Juniors & Sophomores, chosen for their leadership potential through a competitive interview process, attend an all-expense-paid three day camp.

- The **Rotary Youth Leadership Award** program was first held in District 5300, Rotary International in 1987.

- Roughly 300 young leaders 150 Female, 150 Male) will attend this year from Southern Nevada and Southern California.

Rotary District 5300 | RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

GOALS OF RYLA

- **Reinforce and provide recognition for your efforts, accomplishments, skills and your potential as leaders**
- **Develop understanding of Rotary among youth participants**
- **Develop leadership skills with an emphasis on:**
  - **Fundamentals of leadership**
  - **Ethics of positive leadership**
  - **Importance of communication skills in effective leadership**
  - **Leadership in problem solving and brainstorming**
  - **Group dynamics and dealing with peer pressure**
  - **Building self-confidence and self-esteem**

What to Expect

- **A very early start to your day**
- **The bus will leave on schedule and will not stop. Some busses may have a restroom. Bring water / snacks for the ride**
- **Arrive at RYLA about 11:30 am**
- **Meet your Group, Continent Leader and Facilitator**





What to Expect

First Day

- Expect to have to carry your luggage, as well as your sleeping bag and pillow
- Prepare for all kinds of weather – bring large plastic garbage bags labeled for easy Identification
- You will sleep in dorms with other students
- Wear your name tag **at all times** except when showering or sleeping
- You will not be grouped with your home town friends





What to Expect

General Sessions & Leadership Labs

- General session meetings with great speakers
- Each Continent will host a General session
- Smaller group labs that will challenge you, reward you, frustrate you and teach you more about yourselves





Meals & Social Activities

Opportunities to meet new people and make new friends

- Meal times will provide an opportunity to mix with students from other cities and meet other facilitators
- Great food served family style
- Saturday evening choices of *Fellowship Activities*



What you need to know

- **RYLA Guidelines of Conduct will be reviewed at camp, on your first day**
- **Curfews and Dorm Security**
- **Emergency Nurse or Dr**
- **on hand**
- **Find it clean & leave it clean**
- **No cell phone usage, texting or email. Pictures, flashlight and alarm clock usage okay.**
- **We will not hesitate to call your parents to come pick you up, if you break the rules**



RYLA CHALLENGE

Objective

- **RYLA participants will be presented with a special challenge for the weekend**
- **Each Participant has the opportunity to create his or her own response to the challenge**
- **Each continent will select one participant who will be featured at the last General Session on Sunday and have an opportunity to share their RYLA Challenge project.**
- **Creativity counts!**



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WHAT TO BRING

- Sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, bath towel
- A warm jacket, hat, gloves and rain gear
- Your cell phone to be used for an alarm clock, flashlight, and to check in with family during downtime (you may bring an additional flashlight, lip balm, sunglasses, pen or pencil)
- Jeans or sweats, water resistant boots or shoes, warm sleepwear, long-sleeved shirts for sleepwear or to be worn under RYLA Sweatshirt.
- Several pair of socks, flip flops or shower shoes. One RYLA sweatshirt will be given to you at camp. Dress in layers; may be sunny or snowing.
- Do Not Over Pack – limited luggage space on the busses.
- Pack (light) all of your gear in a duffel bag or other suitable luggage that you can carry a far distance.
- **Also, bring a few large labeled trash bags** in which you can place your luggage, sleeping bag, pillow etc... in case of rain or snow. Write your name with a water-proof marker or other markings.
- Meds should be in **original container** placed in a Ziplock bag with name on it. Meds to be turned over to Facilitator prior to boarding the bus.
- OPTIONAL: 1 or more non-perishable food item(s) that will be donated to a food bank.
- A sense of humor and a great attitude!!

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Weapons of any kind
- Alcohol or illegal drugs
- Valuables of any kind
- Cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, matches or lighters
- Laptops, tablet computers, etc.
- Formal attire
- You do not need money
- Swim clothes
- School work – there is no time to complete it!
- Cell Phones- no incoming or outgoing calls during the day, no social Media or texting (we will take your phone for the weekend) phone may be used to take photos or to complete the RYLA Challenge.

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YOUTH PROTECTION

- District 5300 is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants.
- Procedures have been created to safeguard both our youth and adult members.
- All Rotarians at RYLA have gone through Youth Protection Training and a Background Check. (details on website)

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RYLA 2026

Questions?

See you at RYLA on December 5th!





More info:

https://www.rotary5300.org/service/youth-service/ryla/