**DATE:** January 4, 2024

**TO:** *Principal*

**FROM:** *Name,* Rotary Club of *Name*

**RE: Summary Overview for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)**

The following information is an overview of the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA Conference) which is being presented to *Name* High School students by the Rotary Club of *Name.* This summary is intended to assist the high school administration in reviewing and considering approval for an “excused absence” required for one school day (Friday) for the recognized high school students to attend the conference. It is mandatory that a student be able to attend the entire conference. No exceptions will be granted for a student who can’t commit to the entire weekend.

**ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA)**

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference and planning was developed to demonstrate Rotary International’s commitment, respect, and concern for youth by encouraging, assisting, and training leaders in responsible and effective youth (peer) leadership. Participants will be selected from students, in their sophomore or junior year in high school, who have exhibited leadership abilities in school, church, extracurricular, or community activities. RYLA camp conferences are organized and managed by the Districts of Rotary International. For example, northern Indiana Rotary District 6560 is providing its 32nd RYLA event for the high school students. Information about Rotary International and the RYLA can be found at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

**OVERVIEW OF RYLA 2024,** sponsored by central Indiana Rotary District 6560

Location is scheduled at Camp Tecumseh near Brookston, Indiana, March 15-17, 2024.

In 2019, the RYLA included 75 high school students from over 22 sponsoring Rotary Clubs in central Indiana. The event included professional counselors, a 3-day intense structured program; breakout sessions, and speakers. Perhaps one of the most beneficial aspects of the event is the opportunity for the students to meet and learn from each other in a conference setting of students from all over Indiana.

Additional Information:

* Topics focus on decision-making, ethics, critical thinking, communicating effectively, team building, public service, contemporary problems, and career development.
* Camp features many challenging activities including workshops, speakers, discussions, sports, and music.
* The outdoor activities include a multitude of simulations, called initiatives, each designed to help students learn about leadership.
* Participants are under the guidance of professional counselors and educators.
* Programs are conducted by highly trained, experienced leaders representing a
wide-range of vocations.
* This program has been approved by the Division of Student Activities, Indiana Secondary School Administration as "instructional time."
* A typical day includes breakfast, two morning sessions, lunch, two afternoon sessions, dinner, and leadership skits. A voluntary chapel service will be held on Sunday.
* The participants are driven to camp as no cars are allowed. Transportation is provided by members of  *Rotary Club* of *Name*and under any circumstance, parents are NOT permitted to drive their children to the Camp.
* Use of cell phones, iPods, and other digital devices are prohibited. Housing is a modern lodge with restroom and shower facilities. A counselor will be supervising the group (9 to 1 ratio).

Contact Information:

*Your Name
Rotary Club of Name*
*Your Email Address*

*Your Phone Number*