January 4, 2024

To the Parents of *Name*
*Address*

Dear Parents:

On behalf of your local Rotary Club of *xxx*, we would like to congratulate you for your *son/daughter* has been chosen to attend the RYLA Leadership Conference 2023! The Conference is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of District 6560 in central Indiana.

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards were 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 who have exhibited citizenship, service, and leadership potential in school, church, extracurricular, or community activities.

The RYLA Conference is scheduled for **Friday, March 15 through Sunday, March 17,** at Camp Tecumseh near Brookston, Indiana. **Cost is free to the student by your local Rotary Club bestowing an award stipend of $225.**

Because the conference will begin on Friday missing one day of school is necessary. It is an excused absence. We ask that you and your child discuss the class work missed so your child is comfortable in making up the work. We believe that the learning experience will be well worth attending the conference.

The RYLA participants are driven to camp as no cars are allowed. Transportation is provided by the Rotary Club of *xxx* with permission from the high school and parent. *Name* will drive the students to camp and we will meet March 15th, Friday morning, *Time* AM at *Location.* Students will not arrive back to their home town until the afternoon on Sunday dependent upon the travel time.  Exact times of arrival home and all travel coordination should be coordinated through the Rotary Club sponsoring your student.

We also wish to remind parents your child is NOT permitted to leave the Camp during the RYLA event unless it is an emergency and therefore they will not be returning.

**In case of an emergency and a need arises to call camp, the following number can be used: 765-564-2898.**

I am looking forward to a great leadership conference for your child! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at *Your number*.

Sincerely,

*Your Name*

*Your Email Address*

c:  *Name*, Principal, *Name* High School

**THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF RYLA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

This year high school students from sponsoring Rotary Clubs in Indiana will gather for the RYLA Leadership Conference at Camp Tecumseh, Brookston, Indiana, near Purdue University. The event includes professional counselors, a 3-day structured program, 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 with students from other counties and high schools in 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 Administrations as "instructional time."
* A typical day includes breakfast, 2 morning sessions, lunch, 2 afternoon sessions, dinner, and leadership skits. A voluntary chapel service will be held on Sunday.
* Housing is a modern lodge with restroom and shower facilities. A counselor will be supervising the group (9 to 1 ratio).
* Use of cell phones, iPods, and other digital devices are prohibited.

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