**OVERVIEW of D6560 ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA)**

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| **WHEN**:  | Friday, March 15 through Sunday March 17, 2024 |
| **WHERE**:  | Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Center near Brookston, Indiana |
| **WHAT**:  | 3-day intense structured program including breakout sessions, outdoor activities and speakers under the guidance of professional counselors and educators. |

The 15th Rotary District 6560 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference demonstrates commitment, respect, and concern for youth by encouraging, assisting, and training leaders in responsible and effective youth (peer) leadership. Participants are selected from students, in their sophomore or junior year in high school because of the citizenship skills, academic work ethic and leadership skills they have exhibited in school and in their community. The conference will be a learning experience that further develops those skills and also provides students with new and different views on service, community, teamwork and professionalism. Perhaps one of the most beneficial aspects of the event is the opportunity for the students from all over Indiana to meet and learn from each other in a conference setting.

In 2019, the D6560 RYLA included 75 high school students from over 22 sponsoring Rotary Clubs in central Indiana. Our goal this year is to help more students in our district to experience the encouragement, leadership development, personal development, fellowship and friendship that is RYLA. **Your club can help by supporting at least 2 high school students in your area, by providing the $225 registration fee, and transportation to and from RYLA.**

* 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.
* 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).
* The participants are driven to camp as no cars are allowed. Transportation is provided by members of the sponsoring Rotary Club. Parents are NOT permitted to drive their children to the Camp.

Additional information can be found in the RYLA 2024 file in DACDB, or by contacting the District RYLA Chair, Jim Thompson at 317-417-5946 or jthompson@gibraltardesign.com.