



January 19, 2024

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations Aaron!

You have been awarded the Rotary Youth Leadership Award and have been selected to attend the intensive leadership training weekend February 29 - March 3, 2024.

Officially adopted by Rotary International in 1971, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is one of the most significant and fastest-growing programs of Rotary service. Each year, thousands of young people take part in the program worldwide. The impact spreads further as the program influences other young people, and RYLA programs often lead to the formation or strengthening of Rotaract and Interact clubs.

Leadership, Citizenship & Personal Development - RYLA is an intensive training program for community youth leaders. Each spring, 10th - graders chosen for their past service to the community and leadership potential are awarded an all-expenses-paid camp to discuss leadership skills and to learn those skills through practice.

RYLA AIMS TO:

1. Demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth
2. Provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders
3. Encourage leadership of youth by youth
4. Publicly recognize young people who are providing service to their communities

RYLA Leadership Labs:

1. Communication Skills: Participants will have the opportunity to: develop interpersonal skills; communicate, listen and write more effectively; engage in some form of public speaking in a warm, supportive environment
2. Personal Qualities: Participants will have the opportunities to: identify the various types of personality; help people to get along with each other; manage their own time more effectively; avoid stressful situations; plan for healthier living
3. Leadership: Participants will have the opportunity to: identify the characteristics of effective leaders; become aware of the various styles of leadership; observe effective leaders operating in a meeting situation
4. Problem Solving Strategies: Participants will have the opportunity to: brainstorm and think creatively; engage in practical problem solving and decision making activities; use a problem solving model in a practical situation

Because you have exhibited potential for leadership, as well as an empathy and kindness toward those in need, it is our pleasure to sponsor you to attend RYLA. We are excited to invest in your future through this weekend. We believe you will accomplish great things in your lifetime.

Congratulations,

**Tina Henson
RYLA Club Chair
Rotary Club of Niceville-Valparaiso**

Next Steps to prepare for RYLA:

1. The enclosed medical form (requiring a notary) should be filled out by a parent & emailed by next Friday (3/3/23).
2. Enclosed you will also find a packing list, which is also on our website. (My suggestion is to pack light, therefore specifically, as you will have to carry the items you bring. Determine what you will wear each day when you are packing, instead of packing 17 outfits and deciding at camp what to wear.). You will receive a RYLA t-shirt at camp to wear on Sunday, so you don't need to pack a shirt for Sunday. Check the weather forecast in Milton, FL when you start to pack and plan accordingly.
3. The van driven by one of our Rotarians will meet you at the Walmart Parking Lot at 1pm on 2/29/24 unless otherwise notified. All meals are covered at camp, but the van will make a stop for lunch on the way out there and for an early dinner on the return home, so you might want to bring some money for those meals/snacks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Tina Henson at 618-292-9583. The website is ryla6940.org for additional information.

Congratulations!