



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

RYLA aims to develop the leadership skills and provide life tools for young leaders.

The next District 9685 RYLA program will be held in January from a Sunday to Saturday.

What is RYLA?

RYLA is an award from Rotary to celebrate and reward the outstanding contribution of a young person in the local community.

It is a week-long “life changing” experience for up to 120 young adults who are in the early stages of their careers - sponsored by District 9685 Rotary Clubs.

The RYLA program is designed to:

- Encourage leadership development of young adults by young adults.
- Publicly recognize and reward young adults who give their time and serve as leaders in a range of youth organisations in our community.
- Improve and enhance leadership skills for youth leaders and potential leaders.

Who is it for?

Young adults up to 29 years of age (must be under 30 on January 1st) and at least one year out of school.

Young leaders in the community or those who aspire to leadership.

Young adults seriously committed to developing their leadership skills.



About RYLA

RYLA is free to successful candidates: Rotary clubs, employers or other organisations sponsor candidates for the RYLA seminar. Sponsorship includes board and lodging, guest speakers, and a range of indoor and outdoor activities.

The RYLA venue is situated on Sydney's Northern Beaches, only 45 minutes from the centre of Sydney.

In addition to the conditions listed above, applicants must be currently involved, or anticipate being involved, in some form of local community youth leadership. Typically, these people come from groups such as scouting, guiding, church groups, sporting clubs, government agencies, local business and emergency services. Participants must be able to attend the entire week. They may not leave the site during the week.

At the completion of the program candidates become RYLarians and receive a certificate at a special awards ceremony.

For more information, or to apply for support from the Rotary Club of Upper Northern Beaches, see the Rotary District 9685 website <http://rotarydistrict9685.org.au/SitePage/ryla> or contact the Youth Director, youth@rotaryuppernorthernbeaches.org.

If your employer may be willing to sponsor your attendance, please contact RYLA Chair through RYLA@rotarydistrict9685.org.au.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards – RYLA

The RYLA Experience

We believe that RYLA will be a life changing experience, but don't just take our word for it; here's what the experts (past RYLArrians) say:

"RYLA gives young people the precious gift of one week to focus purely upon themselves, to reflect on their values and their goals, and to begin to realise the truly amazing things they are capable of achieving. And you know what? Boy I'm glad I went! RYLA was exactly what I needed: new relationships, and new perspectives; excitement and quiet reflection; inspiration, energy and hope.

So much is expected of young people today, yet society doesn't often give us time to sit down and work out "Who am I? What am I doing? What can I do? And yet these are fundamental questions for anyone wishing to serve their community" -- Patrick



"RYLA was a fantastic experience. I went for the week not knowing what Rotary was, what Vision Valley was and what I was going to do for 7 days with a bunch of strangers. I left RYLA with a great bunch of friends and with a much better understanding of what Rotary was about. RYLA was my launching pad into RYPEN which I am happy to say is one of the best weekends of my life. It always amazes me when I am wearing my RYLA T-shirt and someone comes up to me and says - I went to RYLA 10 years ago! As it turns out my Boss went to RYLA almost twenty years ago and thought that it was one of the key points in his life as well. It is hard to express what RYLA is or what it means but I can say quite confidently that it is up there as one of the best weeks of my life." -- Ian

"Before I went on RYLA, I didn't really know what it was that made me a leader. I was not a leader at all, really; I was a person filling positions of leadership. RYLA gave me the opportunity to experience real leadership and make decisions that affected other people. The numerous practical exercises made me realise that I could be a good leader - I just needed to think about what I was doing. More than two years later, I find leadership a lot easier than it was back then. Don't get me wrong: it is still a challenge, but now it has become something that I use every day, rather than a hat that I wear when I need to. With the friends that I made on RYLA, I am still working to make a difference - which is exactly what RYLA inspired me to do." -- Matt

"Coming out of RYLA, I think the smaller changes, the inspirational talks, and the couple of supportive words from everyone really make you think twice about everything...about life, our friends, who we want to be as people, and how it's important to never lose sight of something you are passionate about. For me so far it has been Rotex. We have been doing SO great every time that we are together working as a team and really making plans for the future of youth exchange, and also for rebounds of our district. It's the fact that things can't be left late - they have to start from somewhere and if we are going to sit around and dream then it will never happen, and that we can have a ripple effect from the little that we think are meaningless!! I'm more confident, positive and feel like there is great optimism in every path that I can take because of the things that I have learnt and also the things that make me the person I am." -- Kash

"My outlook has changed and my new, positive approach is affecting all aspects of my being. I am the master of my destiny and RYLA has helped me to realise that what you put in to life you get back two fold. On RYLA I met a group of driven and talented people, was inspired by my facilitators and learnt many new leadership skills. Today as I write this, I wear my RYLA badge with pride. When I look in the mirror it reminds me of the fantastic week I spent in Vision Valley learning, experiencing and growing. RYLA challenged me and forced me to step outside my comfort zone. This in turn gave me the confidence I needed to go out into the world, putting faith in the choices that I make, and to truly be the inspiration." -- Claire