

Camp RYLA 2012

“Reach for the Future”



Rotary International
District 5810

1991-2012

Application Guide

Club

RYLA Chairperson



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Mail completed student application to:

Dana Mackison, 2012 Chairman
1610 Millview Drive
Carrollton, Texas 75006

Phone: (972) 245-2142
Fax: (214) 269-1447
dmackison@RYLA5810.org

Camp RYLA 2012

General Information

The Date June 2 to June 7 2012

The Cost \$615.00 per camper / \$25.00 per camper discount if paid by February 28, 2012.

The Place Camp Hoblitzelle Conference Center, Midlothian, TX 76065

The Candidate Your **Best** high school students who will be Seniors in the 2012-2013 school year with proven or potential leadership abilities.

The Purpose To provide outstanding student leaders an opportunity to expand and hone their leadership skills at a week long scholarship camp.

The Objective

- To provide an atmosphere where future leaders will experience learning situations that will aid them in developing sound values.
- To promote an environment that will provide each individual with a basis of insight and understanding for intelligent leadership.
- To promote involvement that encourages the participants to think through appropriate actions based on values and ethics.
- To encourage the students through cooperative activities and group dynamics to develop leadership skills that can be carried back to their individual high schools and modeled.

The History RYLA was developed in Australia during the mid-1960s. The first RYLA camp in District 5810, with 47 young men, was held in 1991 at the Bridgeport Conference Center on Lake Bridgeport. The following year, 1992, the District sponsored its first coed camp with 83 young men and women. In each of the years, 1993, 1994, & 1995, approximately 100 coed campers represented District 5810. Since 1997 all clubs in District 5810 have participated in sponsoring over 175 scholarships each year. RYLA's yearly objective is to select the best leadership prospects from a pool of 800 to 1000 applications from throughout District 5810.

Rotary International has a zero-tolerance policy toward abuse and harassment, and is guided by the following Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth:

Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come into contact. (RCP 2.110.1)

All Rotarians, clubs, and districts should ensure that their programs are consistent with both this statement and RI youth protection policies. A full copy of the Youth Protection document supporting "RYLA programs Best Practices" is available from the Camp RYLA Director at mhealy@ryla5810.org

Camp RYLA 2012

Club Responsibilities

- President**
- Pick the RYLA Chairperson for your Club.
 - Make sure the RYLA program is budgeted.
 - Know and make sure all deadlines are met.

- RYLA Chairperson**
- Become knowledgeable about RYLA.
 - Know all deadlines and make sure they are met.
 - Inform high school contacts about the RYLA program.
 - Organize club camper selection committee.
 - Potential contacts would be high school counselors, principals, student council coordinators, athletic directors, band directors, and last year's RYLA campers.
 - Make sure all selected candidates attend the camp (the campers need to know the importance of notifying the sponsoring club if they can't attend, so an alternate can be selected).
 - Attend the **RYLA Roundup** and training session on Saturday, January 28, 2012.
 - Attend the May Orientation Meeting with the student and parents.
 - Make sure the RYLA candidate is informed of all elements of the program and arrange transportation by club members. This is a good opportunity for the candidate to find out more about Rotary and for the club to learn about RYLA on the return trip. (The campers are not to take their own vehicles to camp.)

- High School Contact**
- Help in identifying a pool of eligible students from which to select the best candidates. A realistic club goal would be 4 to 5 student interviews for each scholarship to be awarded.
 - Become the point person in making sure there is a pool of at least 4 to 5 good potential students to be interviewed by the camper selection committee for each scholarship to be awarded. (The contact is not to select the camper, as that is the role of the Rotary Club's **Camper Selection Committee**.)
 - **Mid to late February:** Make school-wide announcements and put up notices to the appropriate junior students of this upcoming leadership program. Also, distribute brochures and promotional materials along with making applications available to the students.

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Timetable

January Have a RYLA Coordinator from the District Committee come to your club and give a program on RYLA. We have a **NEW** dynamite video of the program (see Coordinator assigned to you).

Organize the committee for camper recruitment. Talk with local high school contacts about the RYLA program and the type of student desired. (see The Candidate section) Work with other clubs to insure all schools are covered and two clubs are not recruiting from the same school.

Have club Treasurer send camper fees for this year's camper(s).

2012 Camp RYLA Treasurer

c/o William Messer; 1119 Ryan; Carrollton, TX 75006

Attend RYLA Roundup on January 28, 2012. Receive and review applications for students who are interested in attending Camp RYLA.

** Roundup attendance is mandatory for every club sending students to camp.*

February Check back with high school contacts to ensure materials are being distributed or if any questions have arisen from potential candidates. Send payment by February 28th.

March Interview and choose a recipient(s) of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. Also, pick an alternate(s) in case the first selection cannot make it at the last moment. Interviews and selection should be completed by the third week in March.

April Send your campers applications (with picture) to the Camp's mailing address on the left by April 15. Make sure transportation to and from camp is arranged. Each club is responsible for having members take the camper to Camp Hoblitzelle, along with picking them up at the end of camp. It is required that at least 2 persons transport students to and from camp.

May Follow up with students and their parents to make sure all camper medical forms have been received and then returned to the Camp's address by May 11. A phone visit with the parents would be in order to ensure that any questions that might arise are answered. Inform your student of the members of your Rotary club who will be providing transportation to and from camp. Return the transportation form at the back of this booklet. Honor your RYLA candidate at a club meeting before camp. Attend Camper/Parent Orientation Meeting.

June **Camp RYLA** - June 2 to June 7, 2012.

July 1st to Sept. 1st Schedule your RYLA camper to give a presentation to your club. Invite parents and high school contacts to this meeting.

IMPORTANT

Camp RYLA Registrar
1610 Millview Dr.
Carrollton, TX 75006

Camp RYLA 2012

The Recruiting Process

Recruiting Talk with your high school contacts early in the recruiting process to inform them about the RYLA program and what club resources are available.

IMPORTANT

MALE / FEMALE RATIO

We have learned over the years how important it is to have an equal ratio of male and female campers. To maintain the quality of the program and assure that every participant gets the best possible experience, we require clubs to select candidates and alternates in equal numbers of males and females.

As long as every club follows that standard we can be assured of the highest quality leadership experience for your selections. If we do not get an equal number of male and female applications, the Camp RYLA committee will balance the participants submitted to create this necessary ratio of campers. That won't be necessary if every club meets the ratio in their selections.

- In January, distribute a copy of the RYLA booklet with the counselor cover letter, as well as other resources (student brochures and posters). Make sure the high school contacts understand they are a very important link in the selection process.
- Provide access to the video that each club has received for recruitment. Meet with the high school contact to view the camp video, thus giving them a better understanding of what the camp has to offer, as well as the day-to-day activities.
- Express to the high school contact the far reaching benefit their high school will receive by sending quality leaders. As seniors, these scholarship winners will bring back information and new skills that will benefit many others in the student body.
Some of the things that should be considered are:
 - Good academic record
 - Involvement in school activities
 - Involvement in athletics
 - Work experience
 - Other significant achievements
 - Additional high school leadership roles
- If you have more than one club in your area, coordinate your efforts at the local high school, or if you have more than one high school, make sure you develop candidates at both schools. Also don't overlook private schools in your recruiting area.

- Interview**
- Organize a club interview committee.
 - Arrange an interview day for all of your candidates at one school.
 - Show the RYLA video to all of your candidates before the interview to spark additional questions and interest from the students.
 - Conduct an Interview Question period with each candidate.
 - In selecting candidates, it is required to maintain an equal ratio of male to female awardees.
 - Select an alternate for each awardee.

- Orientation**
- Be sure your candidates are aware they are receiving an award. The scholarship they will receive to Camp RYLA is **RYLA**, the **R**otary **Y**outh **L**eadership **A**ward. Make them aware of the commitment your club has made and that they will make in attending.
 - Follow up with the students and their parents to ensure that all deadlines are met and any questions regarding camp are answered.

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Recruiting Tools

Example School Video Announcement Script:

Propose to school:

This (DVD) contains an exciting 90 second video that highlights what Camp RYLA is all about. It will help the prospective candidate realize what they will experience and get out of the program. Can we schedule this to be presented on [target date].

If allowed, video lead-in:

Camp RYLA, a youth leadership award, is an annual camp put on by Rotary International for high school students finishing their Junior year. This video shows what you will experience and get out of the program.



Video

Example Congratulations Email:

From: Club RYLA Chairman
Date: April 1, 2012
To: [student name]
Subject: Camp RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Award

[student name],

Congratulations. You have been selected by the [club name] Rotary Club to attend Camp RYLA June 2-7, 2012 at Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian. We were impressed with your interview and your accomplishments. Camp RYLA is designed to strengthen your leadership skills and share new ideas. Plus, it is a lot of fun. After April 16 you will be receiving an information packet directly from Camp RYLA. Included will be a medical form which must be completed and returned prior to camp.

The [club name] Rotary Club will arrange your transportation to and from camp. As time draws closer to camp you will be contacted by a club member to make the necessary arrangements.

The first step in Camp RYLA is attending a Parent / Student Orientation Meeting in May. At this meeting you will hear more about camp, meet some of your fellow campers and hear from previous campers. You and your parents will also have an opportunity to ask any questions you have. I have attached a copy of the meetings schedule for your use. Please arrange for you and your parents to attend one of the meetings. You will notice our club is listed under the [your club's date] meeting at [your club's location]. However, you can attend any of the meetings if another is a more convenient day or location. Just let me know which meeting you will attend so we can join you there.

After Camp RYLA we will ask you and the other campers sponsored by our club to come to a meeting of the [club name] Rotary Club to share your experiences with the members who have funded the scholarship for you to attend camp.

I know you will find Camp RYLA to be an exceptional and rewarding experience. If, at any time, you have questions, concerns or problems related to Camp RYLA please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

[your name here]

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Recruiting Tools

Example Regrets & Alternate Email:

From: Club RYLA Chairman
Date: April 1, 2012
To: [student name]
Subject: Camp RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Award

[student name],

I am sorry that [club name] Rotary Club was not able to select you as our candidate. We want to thank you for your interest in Camp RYLA and the time you spent with us to interview. We have chosen other candidates to represent [club name] Rotary Club at Camp RYLA. Unfortunately we have a limit on how many students we can sponsor. Your application and interview were impressive and the final choices were difficult.

We will be submitting your application to Camp RYLA as an alternate, so there is still a possibility you will be able to attend camp. With 150 to 160 planned campers, Camp RYLA often has openings develop when a scheduled camper cannot attend. If one of our campers has to drop out before camp you will be first in line to fill that slot. However, all alternates go into an overall group so if an opening develops in another club and alternates are not available the slot will be filled from that pool of available alternates. While there is no guarantee, many alternates are selected each year to attend. Typically that occurs in the last few weeks before camp so it can be last minute, but if you are available you may be chosen.

Thanks again for your time and interest.

[your name here]

Example Regrets Email:

From: Club RYLA Chairman
Date: April 1, 2012
To: [student name]
Subject: Camp RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Award

[student name],

I am sorry that [club name] Rotary Club was not able to select you as a primary or alternate RYLA candidate. I am sure that you are aware that we had some very good applicants and the choice was quite difficult. Thank you for taking the initiative to further your leadership skills. I have delivered your application to our district RYLA director and should a sponsorship open up, they will notify you.

We want to thank you for your interest and wish you the utmost of success in your life.

[your name here]

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Sample Interview Questions

These questions are provided to help you (Rotarians charged with interviewing high school juniors to be selected for Camp RYLA) stimulate responses from the students that will enable you to select the best candidates. In addition to the questions below, use other questions you feel are appropriate to get the best results.

1. If you were interviewing candidates for this award, what leadership qualities would you look for? What would you want to know?
2. If I were to call your parents or teachers, what would they tell me are your two greatest strengths? ... two greatest weaknesses?
3. Is there anything you would like to share with us that would give us a reason to select you for Camp RYLA instead of another student?
4. When you accomplish a task, how do you determine you've done a good job?
5. What five things do you value most in life?
6. Why do you want to attend Camp RYLA?
7. As a senior in high school or a mentor, what leadership characteristic would you like to strengthen?
8. What program or activity at your school could benefit from your camp experience and how?
9. Who had the most influence on your life and why?
10. What kind of activities in life give you the greatest feelings of importance?
11. If you knew you could not fail, what one great thing would you dare to dream?
12. Are you available for the Camp dates at the beginning of June if selected to attend?
13. Would you be willing to be an alternate if someone else from your school is chosen to be the primary participant?
14. Have you held any jobs either after school or during the summer, and what has been your responsibility?
15. Do you have any questions about Camp RYLA you would like to ask?

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After the Interview

Contact Students Inform the students after their selection so they can make schedule plans for the week of camp.

Remind them if they have a conflict develop to contact the club chairperson early so an alternate can be contacted.

Inform the student of his/her chairperson contact with your club so if there are any questions, the students can keep in touch with this person.

Alternates Remember to choose one alternate for each student selected for RYLA. This is very important to insure your clubs participation if a first selection has to drop.

Also inform the alternate of their status but remind them that many alternates do get to still attend camp.

Mail original applications for those selected, and their alternates, to the RYLA address keeping copies for your records. It is important to designate on the application if the camper is an alternate.

Each application needs to have the student's photo.

Get Acquainted A get acquainted meeting for your scholarship winners and their parents is a good idea prior to camp. This is a good time to inform parents of the program and also make them more familiar with Rotary and your club.

This could be a combined meeting of all RYLA students selected from Rotary clubs in your area. The RYLA program schedules district-wide student/parent meetings in mid-May.

This process helps potential dropouts have a better comfort level with the camp. Parents are more informed about what to expect.

A coordinator from the RYLA committee is available to help with this process and the student/parent meeting.

Transportation Remember the sponsoring Rotary club is responsible for transportation to and from camp (see map enclosed). Inform the parents and students of this responsibility.

IMPORTANT

The transportation form must be returned by the club chairperson by May 6.

Camp RYLA 2012

Orientation Meetings

May 8, 7:00pm - Austin College, Wright Campus Center, Room 231, Sherman, TX

- Bonham
- Denison
- Grayson County
- Sherman
- Whitesboro

May 9, 7:00pm - CCCC Spring Creek, Conference Center, AA135, Sections AB, Plano, TX

- Plano
- Plano Latin American
- Plano Metro
- Plano Sunrise
- Plano West
- Richardson
- Richardson Central
- Richardson East
- Wylie

May 10, 7:00pm - Betty Warmack Branch Library, 760 Bardin Rd. Grand Prairie, TX 75052

- Cedar Hill
- DeSoto
- Duncanville
- Ennis
- Grand Prairie
- Grand Prairie Metro
- Lancaster
- Midlothian
- Waxahachie

May 15, 7:00pm - Rotary Hall, 408 South Goliad, Rockwall, TX

- Commerce
- Forney
- Garland
- Garland Lakeside
- Greenville
- Greenville Daybreak
- Mesquite
- Mesquite Sunrise
- Rockwall
- Rockwall Breakfast
- Rowlett
- Royse City
- Terrell

May 16, 7:00pm - Jack Singley Academy, Conference Center, 4601 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving, TX

- Addison
- Addison Midday
- Carrollton-Farmers Branch
- Coppell
- Dallas North
- Farmers Branch
- Irving
- Irving Sunrise
- Irving Las Colinas
- Prestonwood
- Rotary eClub - District 5810

May 21, 7:00pm - Frisco ISD Admin Complex, Rooms, 101A, 101B & 101C, 5515 Ohio Dr., Frisco TX 75035

- Allen
- Allen Sunrise
- Celina (Preston Trail)
- Farmersville
- Frisco
- Frisco Sunrise
- Hurricane Creek
- Melissa
- McKinney
- McKinney Sunrise
- Prosper

May 22, 7:00pm - Communities Foundation of Texas, Mabel Peters Caruth Center, 5500 Caruth Haven Lane at Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75222

- Dallas
- Dallas Evening
- Dallas Parks
- Dallas Trinity
- Dallas Uptown
- East Dallas
- Park Cities
- Preston Center
- White Rock

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Camper Transportation Form

The Rotary Club of _____ will provide transportation to and from Camp RYLA for our campers utilizing the following persons *:

TRANSPORTATION TO CAMP June 2 BETWEEN 2:00pm AND 4:00pm:

Name: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Name: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

TRANSPORTATION FROM CAMP June 7 BETWEEN 1:30pm AND 3:30pm:

Name: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Name: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

*** Rotary District 5810 and Camp RYLA requires at least two adults be present when transporting students to and from camp.**

Please complete and submit this form **NO LATER THAN MAY 6** to:

Jim Duffy
3887 Ridgelake Ct.
Addison, Texas 75001
Fax: 214-269-1447
jduffy@ryla5810.org



Camp RYLA 2012

Counselor / Staff Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Rotary Club _____ Years as Member _____

Occupation / Rotary Classification _____

Hobbies / Interests:

Briefly state why you would like to serve as a Camp RYLA Counselor / Staff member:

Do you have any previous camping / counselor experience? Yes, or No. If yes, then please list.

Would you be able to stay the entire week (Friday to Thursday)? Yes, or No

If you could stay only part of the week, then how many days could you stay? _____

Which ones? _____
Preference will be given to those Rotarians who can stay the entire week.

Would you be interested in serving on the Camp RYLA Planning Committee? Yes, or No

Signature _____

Date _____

Please send ASAP to
Dana Mackison
1610 Millview Drive
Carrollton, Texas 75006
Fax: (214) 269-1447



Camp RYLA 2012 Application

**PHOTO
REQUIRED**

To be Filled in by Sponsoring Rotary Club Only

Rotary Club _____

Club RYLA Chairperson _____ Phone _____

High School(s) Interviewed _____

Please print or type clearly

Full Name _____ Male _____ Name you wish to be called _____ High School _____

Current Age _____ Birthdate _____ Female _____ Student's Cell Phone # _____ T-Shirt Size _____ Current Grade _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Home Phone _____ Parent's Business Phone _____

Education *Cumulative Grade Point Average:*

Academic Accomplishments *Honor Roll, Awards, Accelerated / Special Classes:*

Other School Activities, and Recognitions *Positions held and responsibilities undertaken:*

H.S. Sports Participation *Number of years, levels of competition, and any honors:*

Outside School Interests, Hobbies, and Recreation:

Work Experience *Summers / After School:*

If additional space is needed, then please attach a separate sheet of paper.

All applications must be signed and have a current photo attached.

I agree to allow the Camp Nurse to dispense any non-prescription medication (aspirin, Tylenol, cough syrup, etc.) to my child, if needed. **In case of medical emergency**, I understand every effort will be made to contact me. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the Camp Director to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and to order injection, anæsthesia, or surgery for my child, as named above.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Name (please print) _____

To learn more about Camp RYLA, visit www.RYLA5810.org



Camp RYLA 2012

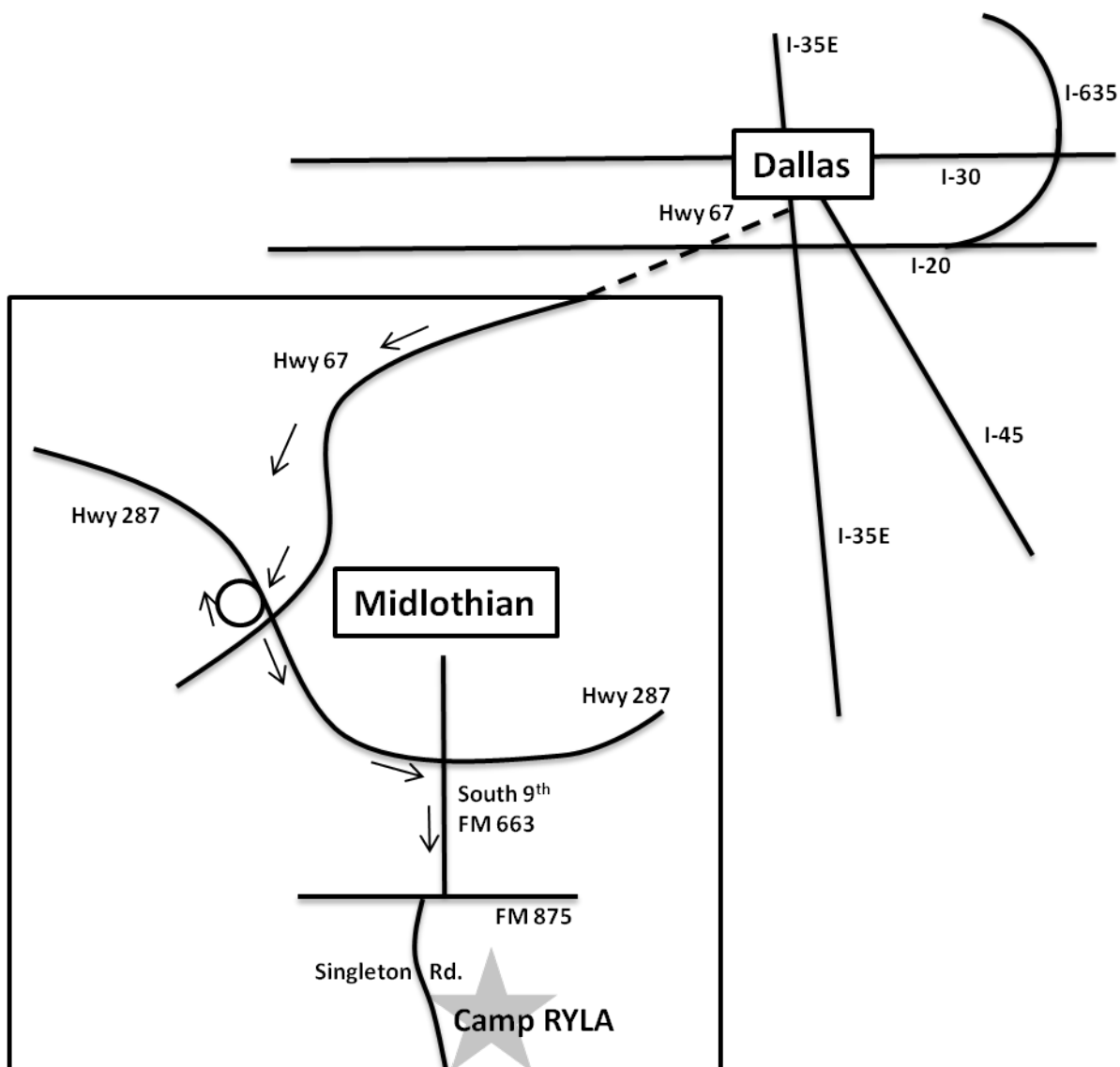
Facilities

Camp Hoblitzelle is home to Camp RYLA. Located only one hour south of Dallas, this facility provides a unique and productive atmosphere for Camp RYLA activities. Facilities include air-conditioned cabins organized in separate villages surrounding meeting spaces, and a large lakeside dining hall for meals and events. Amenities include a swimming pool, volleyball courts, athletic fields, fresh air and sunshine (usually).

Camp Hoblitzelle is approximately 55 miles south of Dallas, near Midlothian, Texas.

From Dallas: Proceed south on US67 exiting onto US287 south on the west side of Midlothian. Exit at the first exit on US287 right onto 9th Street which is also FM663. Proceed south on FM663 to the end at FM875 and turn right, west. Proceed approximately 800 feet to Singleton Road and turn left. Camp RYLA is on your left 1 mile ahead.

From Ennis & Waxahachie: Proceed northwest out of Waxahachie on US287 3.2 miles to FM 875 left (west) on FM875 and proceed 7.4 miles west to Singleton Road. Turn left (south) onto Singleton Road. Camp RYLA is on your left 1 mile ahead.



Camp RYLA 2012

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. We're having a hard time recruiting male campers. Can I just send female campers?** No. The equal male to female ratio is important to the success of the camp. The program is designed around cabin groups and committees of an equal number of male and female campers.
- 2. Who is the best person to contact at the school to get applicants?** Most clubs work through the campus guidance counselors. Other options include the principal, student council sponsor, sports coaches, band director or other department heads who have contact with many students.
- 3. How do we let students know about the camp and get them applications?** In schools, use your campers from last year to work with the counselors or other school contacts to identify possible applicants. If you have an Interact Club they can be a great source of applicants and promotion of the camp. Contact other school clubs and have your students make presentations about Camp RYLA. Most schools have places in the hallways, cafeterias and even restrooms where you can post copies of the poster in your packet. Also, remember sources outside of schools like Scout groups, church youth groups, and similar organizations.
- 4. I contacted the school counselors and they said they will identify the students for us and send us the applications. Is this a good way to select campers?** No. You should get as many applicants as you can and then conduct interviews to make your own selections. Only by interviewing can you decide which applicants will benefit the most from the camp and which will benefit the camp by their participation. We find that if the counselors make the selection the campers often don't even realize Rotary as the sponsor of the camp, or which Rotary Club is providing them with the scholarship.
- 5. We have identified an exceptional candidate in addition to the students we chose for Camp RYLA. Can our club send more students than we have been allotted?** We have a limited number of additional spots available on a first come bases. If your club would like to send an additional student contact your RYLA coordinator or email the RYLA chairman at dmackison@verizon.net.
- 6. What is the Parent / Student Orientation meeting?** They are for the campers and their parents to both attend. These orientation meetings are successful in easing parents' minds about the camp and in reducing potential last minute drop outs by campers who get "cold feet". It is also a great way for them to connect with you and your Rotary Club. A schedule of the meetings can be found on the Camp RYLA web site www.RYLA5810.org.
- 7. One of our selected camper's parents cannot attend the Parent / Student Orientation meeting assigned for our club. Can I get that information to them in some other way?** Find a more convenient meeting on the schedule and have them attend. All meetings are open to everyone. Be sure to go to the same meeting to meet the parents and discuss your club's transportation arrangements and give them your contact information.
- 8. Should we have our alternate campers attend the orientation meeting?** No. While some alternates may well be last minute additions to the camp, it isn't fair to take them to the orientation meeting where they hear all about the camp and the fun. It would be like setting the table with a fine meal and then telling them they don't get to eat.
- 9. I'm having a hard time lining up drivers to take our campers to camp and return them home. Is there someone else who can provide transportation?** No. Transportation to and from camp is each club's responsibility. Some clubs who are from the same area may pool transportation to take multiple campers but it remains each club's responsibility. It is one more chance to connect with the students and have them identify with your club.
- 10. What time should our campers arrive at Camp RYLA and what time can they be picked up for the trip home?** They should arrive on Saturday between 2 and 4 p.m. They can be picked up on Thursday from 1:30 to 3 p.m.