

January 8, 2010



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Dear High School Counselor,

Attached are the 2010 applications for RYLA, District 6840's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program. RYLA is an all-expense paid scholarship for incoming seniors to attend a 5-day leadership camp in July, courtesy of your local rotary club.

Approximately 60 students from the Louisiana-Mississippi Gulf Coast will participate in this intense experiential camp. Students will have an opportunity to work on interviewing and speaking skills, learn strategies to highlight experiences for the college application and scholarship process, as well as gain knowledge on leading and persuading peers in a variety of scenarios.

Rotarians live by the creed, "Service Above Self." During RYLA, students will participate in an international community service project and learn the steps involved in implementing a successful project in their own communities. In addition, they will have an opportunity to hear from incredibly gifted speakers on topics pertinent to making the most of their senior year. And best of all, students will have lots of time to get to know the other campers. The camp is run by 16 past RYLA campers...ranging from one year to nine years of camp experience. They are the true backbone of the program.

All 60 students are hand picked through a rigorous interview process. A list of the Rotary clubs in your area can be found at <http://www.rotary6840.org/>. The student may choose to send their application to the club in the school area or perhaps the area of the city in which they live. Please advise students to keep a copy of the application for their records and adhere to the deadlines. They may email or phone the club contact to arrange an interview or ask questions. A list of key dates is attached for your convenience.

I have been fortunate to have been associated with the program since its inception 18 years ago. It is truly an incredible opportunity and one not to be missed. Please ask your present seniors who attended the 2009 program to share their thoughts on the program.

Should you need additional information or have questions, please email me at lisarflair@yahoo.com or call (504)931-7749.

Sincerely,

Lisa Flair, Director

RYLA 2010

Important Dates to Remember

Application Deadline: Applications available January 15, 2010 from guidance counselor or by emailing lisarflair@yahoo.com

Applications due to the Rotary Club by April 5th.

Interviews: Rotary Clubs will contact students within two weeks and schedule interviews.

Selection Made: Rotary Club representative will contact student on their scholarship selection.

Confirmation Mailed: Confirmation packets will be mailed to those students selected to participate in RYLA by May 1st. Late selections will be mailed May 15th and May 30th.

Acceptance Letters: Students must have their acceptance letter signed by their parent and return it to RYLA by May 30th. A Rotary club representative will invite the camper and their parents to a club meeting in the month of June.

RYLA Program Dates: Check in at the Soloman Episcopal Retreat Center at 3 PM on Sunday, July 18th in Loranger, LA.

Check out at 11 AM on Thursday, July 22nd.

For More Information: Contact Lisa Flair at lisarflair@yahoo.com or (504)931-7749