



**WHAT is RYLA?** RYLA is one of four youth programs sponsored by Rotary International. The others are Youth Exchange, Interact (ages 14-18) and Rotaract (ages 18-30).

**WHERE is RYLA 2011?** RYLA 2011 is being held in gorgeous Kodiak, Alaska, and you will be staying at Camp Woody on nearby Woody Island. Information about Camp Woody is available at <http://www.kodiakbaptistmission.org/woody/>. The event will start in Anchorage on a motor-coach to Homer, continue on an overnight ferry to Kodiak, with the main event in Kodiak. Participants will stay overnight at the Camp, and most activities will take place there. **ALL** participants (including Kodiak area youth) must remain with the group during the entire RYLA event. Leaving the Camp or any RYLA venues for side visits during the RYLA event is not permitted for safety and security reasons.

**ARE ALL OF YOUR RYLA FORMS TURNED IN?** Here is a checklist of forms that you should have already turned in. If you have not, please turn them into your Rotary Club's RYLA Representative ASAP:

- Application (signed by you and your parents/guardian)
- Medical History (signed by your parent/guardian)
- Medical Power of Attorney (signed by your parent/guardian AND NOTARIZED)
- Canadian participants also need a letter signed by both parents/guardians that says it is okay for you to attend RYLA and cross the border to go to RYLA in Kodiak, Alaska.




**MEDICATION AND HEALTH:** If you have health concerns or medications of any kind – please let your chaperone know. You chaperone will be working with the medical volunteers at the camp to ensure your health, safety, and confidentiality. Collin Young, District RYLA Chair will be calling your parents or guardians to discuss any medical needs you may have. You will be taking an overnight ferry from Homer to Kodiak and back. If you are prone to motion sickness, it is a good idea to bring motion sickness medication. Be sure to bring it and note that as your intent on your medical history form.

**WHERE WILL I SLEEP?** The two most often asked questions is “Do I sleep in a bed?” and “Are there showers?” We will be sleeping on the ferry for the first and last nights of the trip (there are chairs, benches and floor space). At Camp Woody there are bunk beds. Be sure to bring your pillow and sleeping bag. Also, please let the Registrar (Scott Williams at [RYLA5010info@gmail.com](mailto:RYLA5010info@gmail.com) or 907-481-6215. Note this is a Kodiak phone number) know if you need a lower bunk for medical reasons.



Camp Woody is located on a small island off the coast of the bigger Kodiak Island; just a short boat ride from the city of Kodiak. Participants will sleep and eat at the camp, and most of the program will be held at the camp. Rotarians will serve as chaperones for all activities. Please note: the camp is somewhat rustic. There are flush toilets and shower facilities, but it won't feel like a hotel.

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

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- ❖ Identification (MANDATORY FOR ALL)
    - Alaskan participants need a government issued photo ID or school photo ID
    - Canadian participants need a passport, letter signed by both parent(s) allowing you to travel to Kodiak to attend RYLA
  - ❖ Sleeping bag & Pillow;
  - ❖ Warm clothes;
  - ❖ Rain Gear and Rain Boots/Shoes (this is Kodiak!);
  - ❖ Snacks for the travel;
  - ❖ Personal toiletries (towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, flip-flops/shower shoes, etc.)
  - ❖ Comfortable clothing to wear during the program and recreational time;
    - Note: dance is casual - not a formal dance;
  - ❖ Spring coat for outdoor events;
  - ❖ Cap or hat (you will need this when we are outside – it may be cold);
  - ❖ Minimal spending money – most everything is provided by ROTARY;
  - ❖ Camera (not required);
  - ❖ Your contact information to share with others;
  - ❖ Reasonable-sized suitcase...don't pack your room;
  - ❖ Bring your sports gear for a sports night/swim night; ;
  - ❖ Bring motion sickness medication if you are prone to that condition (note your intent to bring it on your medical history form);
  - ❖ And bring your open mind and eagerness to have fun and meet cool people like yourself!

Do NOT Bring:

- ❖ Large quantities of cash
- ❖ Expensive electronics
- ❖ Pocket video games or DVDs
- ❖ Alcohol & Drugs – this includes tobacco products of any kind (**NOTE: prescription drugs must be checked in with the designated RYLA representative**);

***The following is provided by Rotary:***

- ❖ *Registration*
- ❖ *Ground, air and sea transportation*
- ❖ *Meals*
- ❖ *Snacks (but bring your own favorites)*
- ❖ *Recreation*
- ❖ *Housing*

**WHAT TO EXPECT AT RYLA:** Teens in grades 10-11 (aka sophomores/ juniors) will arrive from all over Alaska and Yukon in Kodiak for an exceptional experiential leadership experience. Each Rotary club in the district sponsors approximately two youth to attend RYLA. Many participants will be nervous and don't know anyone, but soon everyone becomes friends.

**Tuesday & Saturday/Sunday will be travel days.** Since we are traveling to Kodiak, we will need to leave early. We will leave Anchorage in the afternoon, travel to Kodiak, via Homer, on motor-coach and ferry. You can sleep on the ferry. Bring your own favorite snacks for the road trip and a little bit of spending money if you would like. We will arrive in Kodiak in the morning, depending on the ferry schedule and weather.

Please make sure you and your parents work with your school and teachers to plan your absences on Tuesday to Friday.

**Your parent/guardians should know that we may not have strong cell service at the remote camp in Kodiak. If your parents need to reach you in an emergency please have them call the camp at 907-654-3210. <mailto:matt@aydc.org>**

**WHAT IS THE AGENDA LIKE?** The opening program on Tuesday will be on the motor-coach, is devoted to establishing expectations, participating in icebreakers, to get to know everyone and have fun. Tuesday night on the ferry, we will continue with a few team-building experiences and ice breakers before folks want to settle down for some sleep. Wednesday everyone will be grouped into teams, for team activities during RYLA.

RYLA participants get into the fundamentals of leadership on Wednesday, identifying the characteristics of leaders they know and admire, discussing issues of leadership, and participating in activities promoting a better understanding of "How am I a Leader". You will be introduced to a variety of leadership topics such as communication, diversity, goal setting, ethical decision-making and problem solving.

Participants will enjoy "games with a purpose" that provide a fun format for developing problem-solving and other life-skills on Thursday/ Friday. Some of the activities will be led by RYLA Alumni from the last couple years – they are already blossoming, confident young leaders. There will be more opportunities to apply some of the leadership principles learned from working together as a team. On Friday night there will be a barbeque and dance hosted by these Alumni. The dance dress code is informal – it is casual attire. Please note, your school district rules for the dances held at your school apply at RYLA. This includes dress code and dance style. Sexually suggestive dancing (a.k.a. grinding) will not be tolerated.

Saturday morning you will check out of your cabin before breakfast. There will be an awards ceremony and closing circle. Departure times will differ for participants depending on their travel arrangement.

## **RYLA'S CORE CURRICULUM:**

- Fundamentals of leadership
- Ethics of positive leadership
- Importance of communication skills in effective leadership

- Problem-solving and conflict management
- Rotary's purpose and service to the community
- Building self confidence and self-esteem
- Elements of community and global citizenship

Awardees (participants) attending the RYLA seminar can expect to further develop their personal and leadership skills in the following key areas:

- **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
- **Personal Qualities:** Participants will have the opportunity 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
- **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
- **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

**RYLA TRAINERS:** During this intensive 3+ day leadership seminar, RYLA is led by a mix of experienced Rotarian RYLA volunteers, professional trainers, and selected RYLA alumni (teens) to assist. One of the criteria for being a Rotarian is to be in a leadership position within their respective organizations. As such, they can offer real-world input and examples into the training.

Collin Young, a Chartered Accountant of Whitehorse, with many years of volunteering at youth camps and kids outreach is RYLA's District Chair. Scott Williams, the Director of Operations in Kodiak's School District is the RYLA 2011 Event chair. Timi Tullis, of the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), is our lead trainer.

**TRAVEL:** Most Alaskan participants will be able to leave on Tuesday to rendezvous in Anchorage on Tuesday for the journey to Kodiak and arrive home on Sunday. Canadian participants will be leaving on April 24<sup>th</sup> and arriving back home late Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> (depending on weather, road conditions).