



ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

RYLead

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2021 - 2022



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2021 Committee Chairman

Dr. Dana Mackison
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August 5, 2021

Dear RYLarian,

Welcome to RYLead! You have already met many of life's challenges to get where you are. Today marks the beginning of an exciting program that we are planning for you.

This leadership experience will challenge you in many ways. Each of you is a leader possessing unique skills in a variety of academic, athletic and social areas. Leadership incorporates many skills — it's not simply one attribute. During this program, you will have the opportunity to learn more about these skills from individuals who are leaders and teachers in their fields.

Be inquisitive, express your feelings, challenge the facts and explore every aspect of the leadership tools the program offers. Don't miss out on anything offered by saying "if I had only participated more I could have..."

Let's all step out of our comfort zone and "Reach for the Future" together.

As you look back on this RYLA program, I hope you will regard it as truly memorable experience. RYLA alumni and Rotarians from throughout District 5810 have spent many hours preparing to support you throughout this academic year. Under the direction of past RYLA alumni and staff, this program we hope will prove to be one you will never forget.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Mackison".

Dana Mackison, Chairman
Camp RYLA
Rotary International, District 5810



RYLA GOALS

RYLA MISSION

RYLA 5810 seeks to develop a diverse group of young leaders who strive for excellence by promoting learning, respect and individuality; cultivating an environment to expand leadership skills and character; and encouraging service above self through personal reflection, cooperative activities, group dynamics, and intentional instruction.

RYLA OBJECTIVES

- **Personal Development:** To examine personal leadership skills in order to identify strengths and growth opportunities.
- **Leadership Foundations:** To define individual leadership styles and traits in order to understand one's personal impact as a leader.
- **Personal Growth:** To identify challenges that may be faced as leaders and how to handle those challenges with dignity, compassion and respect.
- **Community:** To provide an atmosphere that encourages the development of servant leadership skills and a desire to positively impact their community.

Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of what we think, say or do

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

MARK HEALY



Mark Healy was one of the founders of Camp RYLA for Rotary District 5810. He was a counselor at the first camp and the Camp Director for the next 21 years.

Mark passed away suddenly February 24, 2013 but he continues as the heart of Camp RYLA. His understanding and caring concern for all the campers who have gone through Camp RYLA set a high standard we all try to meet. His playful nature endeared him to everyone he encountered and his zest for young people was boundless.

We will always honor him for his role in the creation of Camp RYLA. Without his dedication and hard work, Camp RYLA as we know it today would not exist.

While we are saddened by his loss, we will always celebrate what he created and work tirelessly to meet the superior standards he set for the program, the staff and the campers—this year and all the years in the future.

Mark will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.



WHAT IS RYLEAD?

RYLead is a four-month digital program that is designed to level-up the next generation of leaders. There will be 3 virtual modules and 1 in person module in the Fall for a total of 4 modules. Should health and safety protocols prohibit meeting in person safely for Module 4 we have contingency plans in place to provide that module virtually. Staying involved through the first three modules will grant you many incredible opportunities including an in-person leadership summit in November for us all to meet and celebrate the conclusion of RYLead!

MODULE 1: August 22, 2021

MODULE 2: September 26, 2021

MODULE 3: October 24, 2021

MODULE 4: November 20, 2021



ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

- Call yourself a RYLarian and join the **RYLA alumni network!**
- Access to in-person **leadership summit** for RYLeaders in November!
- Eligibility to apply for RYLead awards with cash **scholarships!**

PROGRAM

Each of RYLead’s modules contain one virtual session (one per month) focused on:

- Leadership lessons to help you develop the skills to be an effective leader and affect positive changes in your local community.
- Personal development concepts to help you become more resilient, more productive, and more aware.
- Exclusive networking events, where you will have access to the diverse leaders in the RYLA alumni network to talk about diverse subjects such as college life, career opportunities, community engagement, and community service.



“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

-John Quincy Adams



CODE OF CONDUCT

RYLEAD DIGITAL CODE OF CONDUCT

RYLead 5810 expects all community members to abide by our core principles of authenticity, inclusivity, and belonging. While engaging in all RYLead programming we ask that you honor and respect others' opinions, treat one another with compassion, and promote positive citizenship on all digital platforms. If these expectations are not upheld, participation in RYLead programming could be suspended or terminated.

Honor the people around you:

- Turn your camera on for the duration of each module.
- Sit in a distraction-free, work-appropriate location, such as a desk or kitchen table (not on your bed).
- Be present: fully dressed, and ready to participate.
- Arrive to each module ready to learn.
- Focus. Do not split screens unless asked. Turn off other applications that may distract you, like email.
- Place other electronic devices on "Do not disturb."
- Be mindful of tone and expressions during the live modules.

Respect the space and the people in it:

- Arrive to each module / login on time, with the appropriate materials.
- Respect the context and privacy of the live learning module. Sessions are not to be recorded, photographed or shared by RYLead student participants without explicit permission from RYLA 5810.
- Use mobile phones or additional electronic devices only with permission from your module leader as it pertains to the learning experience.
- Come prepared with fully charged devices to ensure participation in each module.
- Practice leadership integrity by completing your own work; while collaborating and supporting your teammates within your cohorts.

Demonstrate compassion:

- Be forgiving of mistakes during the live modules. There are bound to be technical glitches; be patient with your teammates and module leaders.
- Listen carefully to your module leaders and peers, ask good questions and make productive comments, learn and have fun.

Contact us:

- If you are having issues logging in to the module, or will not be able to attend, please contact inforylead@gmail.com to seek support.

CAMP CUP POINTS

SCORING RUBERIC

CATEGORY	MAX POINTS
ATTENDANCE	UP TO 10 (100%)
SURVEY	UP TO 10 (100%)
HOMEWORK	10 (ON TIME) 5 (LATE)
HOMEWORK (FIRST)	5 EXTRA
HOMEWORK (JUDGING)	10 (1ST), 9 (2ND), ETC.
SLACK INTERACTION	10 (6-7 DAYS) 8 (5 DAYS), 5 (3-4 DAYS), 2 (1-2 DAYS)
SLACK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	2 PTS PER PERSON

SPEAKER BIO

TROY STENDE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Troy Stende comes to us from Minnesota. He is thrilled to be here at his first RYLead. Troy is the premier Student Leader Trainer, and has delivered thousands of life-changing programs to tens of thousands of people.

Troy has spoken in 47 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and has international speaking experience in places like Singapore and Hong Kong... and even Canada. Troy is the co-author of *College Success Secrets: They Don't Teach You This In The Classroom*.

While earning his two collegiate degrees Troy was, among other things, a Kappa Sigma Fraternity member and a NCAA Division I gymnast. Troy has appeared on National Public Radio, was featured in USA Today for living his dream job, and is the three-time recipient of the prestigious "Best Campus Speaker" award from the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities.

Most importantly, Troy is a devoted father to his wife Deanna and his three fabulous children - Elijah, Quin, and Xavier.

Visit StendeInspirations.com for more information.



THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE MY MESSAGE

Connect | Trust | Breakthrough

A BOOK I LOVE

THE ALCHEMIST
BY PAULO COELHO

A QUOTE I LOVE

"BE KIND WHENEVER POSSIBLE. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE"

-DALAI LAMA

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

DEFINITION

- a. Necessary for any other component of leadership or leadership development.
- b. Communication is effective if the message one intends to send is also received as intended.
- c. You can only communicate what you understand.

A. ELEMENTS OF COMMUNICATION

1. SENDING INFORMATION

- a. Spoken/ Verbal/ Written
- b. Eye Contact
- c. Tone of Voice
- d. Word Choice
- e. Body Language

2. RECEIVING INFORMATION

- a. Active Listening
- b. What is your body language towards a speaker?
(You are always telling people a lot more than you think you are!)

3. CONFIRMATION

- a. You can only tell if the information you intended to send is received if you have a way to confirm that it was received
- b. A good communicator always attempts to confirm the information conveyed as both a sender and receiver
- c. Think about pilots, air traffic controllers, police, or others who use a radio-- they always repeat the message back to the sender.
 - i. "Ok, so just to be clear, you want me to do A, B, and the C..."
 - ii. "Just to make sure we're on the same page.."
 - iii. "Just to make sure we all understand each other"These acknowledgements seem like a waste of time until you get in the habit of using them. You will find they save you time and misunderstandings in the long run!

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF REPETITION

1. Repetition is often necessary for effective communication. Be patient and remember that not everyone has your knowledge and experience, but if you are an effective communicator, you will help others learn!
2. Introduction: Introduce the main message
Body: Address the main message
Conclusion: Repeat the main message
3. "Tell them what you're going to tell them, tell them, and then tell them what you told them"

MODULE OVERVIEWS

MODULE 1: August 22, 2021
Kevin “Scooter” Ward
Greg Tepper
Hollis Owens

MODULE 2: September 26, 2021
Troy Stende

MODULE 3: October 24, 2021

MODULE 4: November 20, 2021

SPEAKER BIO

KEVIN “SCOOTER” WARD

KEYNOTE SPEAKER (RYLA 1994)

Kevin “Scooter” Ward is a 1995 graduate of Richardson High School in Richardson, Texas. Scooter has a profound commitment to servant leadership that was sparked in large part by his participation in District 5810 RYLA in 1994. Scooter attended Texas A&M University for undergraduate studies and has an MBA from Columbia University. In his professional life, Scooter serves as Principal Director of a DC-Based Technology Firm specializing in technology investments. Scooter has a deep commitment public service and giving back. Scooter lives in Hyattsville, MD (a suburb of Washington, DC) with his husband and their two sons Norman (14) and Sydney (23), and grandson Elijah (3). Scooter was elected Mayor of the City of Hyattsville Maryland in May of 2021.

This is Scooter’s 27th year of involvement in RYLA, and he is excited to see this year’s RYLeaders grow through this program.



FUN FACT ABOUT ME

I have listened to the same music playlist in my car for over 3 years

FAVORITE LEADERSHIP QUOTE

“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.”

-UNKNOWN



PROMISE YOURSELF

PROMISE YOURSELF to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind. To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet. To make all your friends feel that there is something in them. To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true. To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to greater achievements of the future. To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile. To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

-Christian D. Larson



SPEAKER BIO



GREG TEPPER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER (RYLA 2003)

Greg Tepper is the managing editor of Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine, the Southwest's leading football source since 1960, a position he's held since 2011. He just finished his eighth season as an on-air analyst for Fox Sports Southwest, including "High School Scoreboard Live", "Fox Football Friday", "Built Ford Tough Player of the Week" and coverage of the UIL state football championships.

Tepper is the host of "Texas Football Today", a daily live show on TexasFootball.com discussing high school and college football in Texas. You can find his writing at TexasFootball.com.

Tepper has received multiple awards for his work, including two Lone Star Emmy awards in 2018 and 2019, the 2019 Putt Powell Sportswriter of the Year award presented by the Texas High School Coaches Association, and the 2019 Media Person of the Year award presented by the Gridiron Club of Dallas.

Tepper is a 2003 Camp RYLA alumnus, an experience he credits for shaping both his personal and professional life. He is a 2004 graduate of Coppell High School and a 2008 graduate of the University of Missouri (BJ '08, cum laude). His wife Jen and 2-year old son Hank generously allow him to live in their house in Flower Mound.

FUN FACT ABOUT ME

I won the 4th grade geography bee at Crabapple Crossing Elementary School

FAVORITE LEADERSHIP QUOTE

"It's harder to make the glass than break the glass"
-RZA

SPEAKER BIO



HOLLIS OWENS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER (Rotarian)

Hollis Owens graduated from Washington and Lee University in Virginia with a BS in Neuroscience and went on to physical therapy school at UT Southwestern in Dallas, Texas. She was a pediatric physical therapist for 20 years, and by working with patients and their families, she heard numerous stories about the barriers that exist out in the community for people with disabilities. As a physical therapist, Hollis served as an advocate for her patients and their families. Hollis realized throughout her career that discrimination and prejudices against people with disabilities exist because of a lack of understanding. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world”. Hollis knew there was a need for community education about disabilities, so she got to work. Hollis took the first step by serving as the SAGE Coordinator for their school PTA (Special needs And Gifted Education). As the SAGE Coordinator, Hollis led a disability awareness program in Richardson ISD known as Understanding Differences. In this program, students rotated through seven different stations/simulations led by parent volunteers. Each of those stations taught the students about a different disability. This model of providing disability simulations to students by parent volunteers is currently a common approach to disability awareness programs for students in schools. It turned out to be the wrong approach! I often heard students say, “This must be awful! I feel so sorry for people with disabilities.” I realized we were sending students home with a feeling of sympathy rather than empathy. If people with disabilities had the opportunity to lead the program, they could tell the students first-hand about their own story. We know from empathy research that empathy is most readily triggered when we are exposed to individual stories, so it was evident the model needed to change. This experience led her to the creation of a new and innovative disability awareness program, To Be Like Me Owens’ is currently the Founder and Executive Director of To Be Like Me. She has four daughters who keep her busy with their activities and a husband who embraces and encourages her entrepreneurial spirit! She is a proud member of the Richardson East Rotary Club. Her grandfather was also a Rotarian in San Angelo, Texas, so she loves that she has the opportunity to walk in his footsteps and learn about the importance of “service above self”.

FUN FACT ABOUT ME

I can do the centipede/worm (dance move)!

FAVORITE LEADERSHIP QUOTE

“The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.”

-DOROTHY NEVILLE



LEADERSHIP 101

A. LEADERSHIP - The ability to influence others, with or without authority

B. SKILLSET OF AN EFFECTIVE LEADER:

1. AWARENESS

- a. Situational awareness
- b. Self-awareness
- c. Defining the problem -
Naming the goal

2. ABILITY

- a. Problem-solving
- b. Effective team management
& utilization
- c. Building consensus
- d. Resolving conflicts
- e. Effective communication
- f. Making decisions
- g. Responsibility & accountability

3. COMMITMENT

- a. Placing importance on something
(or goal or group) that is above your
own self-interest
- b. Hard decisions when choices are limited



C. THE ROLE OF FAILURE IN LEADERSHIP

1. Failure is Inevitable

2. Failure is Necessary

3. Failure and Leadership

- a. Leaders are not evaluated on their first (or second or third) failure, but how they correct course to address those failures
- b. Effective leaders recognize small failures when they occur and prevent them becoming larger systemic failures by:
 - i. Seeking accurate information from their teammates
 - ii. Trust and communication throughout the organization
 - iii. Demonstrating commitment which facilitates buy-in by the organization and further success

4. Importance of allowing for failure

- a. Constructs a “safe” environment
- b. Allows people to step out of their comfort zone

MODULE 1 RECAP

CABIN DISCUSSIONS/REVIEW

A. SCOOTER WARD - What is RYLA?

1. How to find your opportunity
2. How to seek curiosity
3. How to be your best you

B. GREG TEPPER - Leadership Fundamentals

1. The importance of communication
2. The Importance of trust
3. The importance of humility

C. HOLLIS OWEN - To Be Like Me

1. Have you ever been uneasy about opening up conversation or interaction with someone who was different? What made you uneasy?
2. Have you experienced the support and encouragement from an individual who carries you through a difficult time? Why do you think they stuck with you?
3. Think of a time when you thought to yourself, "Someone should change this. It's just not right." Have you followed up with action to help make a change? Why or Why not?

RYLEAD STAFF

CABIN COUNSELORS

CABIN 1	JONI UTZ BROOKS POWELL	TARYN BLACKSTOCK
CABIN 2	HENA RAFIQ ROGER DAVIS-JAHNEL	
CABIN 3	BROOKE CANTRELL MIKE WILLIAMS	
CABIN 4	MACKENZIE DUNCAN JONATHAN MURPHY	
CABIN 5	BLAKE MARTIN ROSS JORDAN	
CABIN 6	MEG JONES COLIN CUNNINGHAM	JOSEPH SUMMERS
CABIN 7	ALEXANDRA (LEXI) SULLIVAN-COOK J BAILEY	
CABIN 8	STEPHANIE HELMBERGER KEGAN DUNCAN	
CABIN 9	KRISTEN HELMBERGER NATHAN MATHAI	
CABIN 10	CELESTE BUCCHAN DALTON LEE	CAROLINE BARKSDALE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CABIN 1	MADISON COURTNEY	
CABIN 2	RACHEL SIMMS	PATRICIA VILLARREAL MARTINEZ
CABIN 3	CLAY CASH	
CABIN 4	AMANDA OMEHE	AMANDA NOE
CABIN 5	CARSON JONES	JULIA LIN
CABIN 6	ASPEN HOUGH	LANDRY LEWIS
CABIN 7	MICHAEL DiSTASI	CHLOE KEGGEN
CABIN 8	BRIA SAVAGE	PEYTON ELLIS
CABIN 9	KEVIN UTZ	
CABIN 10	EMMA EDWARDS	AUTUMN KRANZ

RYLEAD LEADERSHIP

RYLA DIRECTOR: DANA MACKISON

RYLEAD DIRECTOR: ANDREW UTZ

OPERATIONS MANAGER: KATIE HUBER

PROGRAMING DIRECTOR: MICHELYNNE MCNEELEY

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: CAITLIN UTZ

ACTIVITIES MANAGER: MADDY REED

SCRIPT DEVELOPER: MARISSA DUSEK

2020 RYLEAD STAFF

WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE 2020 RYLEAD STAFF FOR STARTING OUR INAUGURAL VIRTUAL PROGRAM LAST YEAR. WITHOUT SLY MAJID AND PAUL MURRAY'S LEADERSHIP, DEDICATION AND HARD WORK ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE 2020 RYLEAD STAFF, THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



LAUREN WHITEMAN

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2007

EDUCATION: University of Oklahoma

WHAT I Do: Content Marketing Strategist for Mitel

ASK ME ABOUT... Books, Music, Navigating College & Grad School, Marvel movies, pizza, and Harry Potter lore

ABOUT ME: Lauren Whiteman is from Dallas, Texas, and a two-time graduate of the University of Oklahoma. After nearly a decade as a college educator and part-time writer and storyteller, Lauren made a shift and got into marketing. She now writes and tells stories full-time and does the occasional education thing on the side. She loves pizza, music, reading, movies, and stressing about writing.



THI LE JONES

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2014

EDUCATION: Prosper HS, UTD-Global Business/Theatre

WHAT I Do: Executive Assistant for Commercial Real Estate, Actress

ASK ME ABOUT... Theatre! Life! Mental Health! Travel! All the things (well kinda)!

ABOUT ME: I love performing! Acting, singing, dancing whatever! I am married and we have a pup named Sadie. Traveling around the world is one of my favorite things ever. Really just figuring out life and trying to have fun while doing so.



BECCA EGGER

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2004

EDUCATION: Howe HS, Texas A&M University- English

WHAT I Do: Photographer

ASK ME ABOUT... Where to get a good deal on running shoes, portrait photography, chronic optimism

ABOUT ME: Teacher turned photographer turned mom-
-RYLA is my safe place and RYLarians are my favorite people.



GREG TEPPER

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2003

EDUCATION: Coppell High School, University of Missouri — Journalism

WHAT I Do: Magazine Editor and Television Sports Broadcaster

ASK ME ABOUT... Journalism, Sports, the hit 1990s television show “Family Matters”

ABOUT ME: I’m the managing editor of a football magazine and talk about football on television. My wife and toddler let me live in their house. Be kind.



MIKE WILLIAMS

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2015

EDUCATION: Bachelors in Business Administration in Finance & Masters in Business Administration in August 2021 from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

WHAT I Do: Graduate Student

ABOUT ME: I am currently finishing graduate school at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and transitioning into the workforce. I played collegiate baseball for 5 years and was on the executive board for our Student Athlete Advisory Committee at TAMUCC. I enjoy being around people, listening to music, playing Settlers of Catan, and working out. Looking forward to getting back to work with RYLA through RYLead!



JOE SUMMERS

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2016

EDUCATION: Neuroscience BS from Creighton University

WHAT I Do: Texas Oncology / Patient Service Coordinator / Applying to Medical School

ASK ME ABOUT... Creighton’s Football Team

ABOUT ME: RYLA Camper in 2016 and AC in 2017. Recent graduate of Creighton University with a bachelor’s degree in neuroscience with a minor in biology. Hopefully a future physician!

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



SLY MAJID

RYLARIAN SINCE: 1999

EDUCATION: Allen HS, University of Texas at Austin- Government

WHAT I DO: Advisor to the Mayor of Austin

ASK ME ABOUT... Getting involved in Government, Politics, and Non-Profits

ABOUT ME: Welcome to the wonderful world of RYLA! My life has revolved around community engagement and service by working in the nonprofit sector and government my whole career. I love trivia, visiting National Parks, and Texas bbq.



SHELBY SMITH

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2013

EDUCATION: Commerce HS, Texas A&M Commerce- Liberal Studies

WHAT I DO: Flight Attendant for Southwest Airlines

ASK ME ABOUT... DANCING, Jesus. Definitely Jesus, Marriage (1 year in but I ain't no expert)

ABOUT ME: YELLOW FRIENDZ I can't wait to meet you! No. Seriously. Introduce yourself and ask me to show you my albino pterodactyl impersonation. Then ask me about my AH MAZE ING husband. Then inquire about my left nostril size. And my stellar job. We'll get real close real quick.



JOHNATHAN MURPHY

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2018

EDUCATION: Dallas Baptist University

WHAT I DO: Student (Computer Science)

ASK ME ABOUT... Beekeeping!

ABOUT ME: Hi! I'm J.D. Murphy. I am a computer science student at DBU and a member of Psi Omega Phi fraternity. I love rock climbing and geeking out about coffee. RYLA is what made my jump to college possible so I can't wait for RYLead!



MEG JONES BAILEY

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2012

EDUCATION: Midwestern State University

WHAT I DO: Family Nurse Practitioner

ASK ME ABOUT... My dog, Duke!

ABOUT ME: I'm a 2012 camper, from Van Alstyne, TX. I went to Midwestern State University for my Bachelors of Science in Nursing and then became an ER nurse! A few years ago, I went back to school at MSU and became a Family Nurse Practitioner. I love my job, and enjoy getting to know new patients every day. I am married to my best friend, and we spend most of our free time doing renovations on our house! My favorite thing about RYLA is the family I have gained and the support they have given me over the years, in good times and bad. I would not be where I am today, without Camp RYLA!



HENA RAFIQ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2011

EDUCATION: Southern Methodist University - BA, Political Science & Human Rights

WHAT I DO: Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab

ASK ME ABOUT... The Balkans, local government, political organizing, how to vote, SMU, London

ABOUT ME: I've been on staff a number of times and have been involved in Rotary in many different ways - including getting to go to International RYLA and being a Global Grantee in London. I currently live in Houston and work in local government as a fellow for the Government Performance Lab. I'm originally from the Irving area. I love the Balkans, tres leches, and dancing! Super excited to get to know everyone at RYLead!



ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



TANNER LOGSDON

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2015

EDUCATION: Austin College
WHAT I Do: Teacher/Coach

ASK ME ABOUT... Studying Abroad, Collegiate Sports, Teaching/Coaching My Pokémon Go Collection.

ABOUT ME: Head Baseball Coach @ Yorktown High School, 7th and 10th Grade History Teacher. Recently Graduated With a Masters Degree From Austin College.



NATHAN MATHAI

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2012

EDUCATION: Furman University

WHAT I Do: I'm a technology consultant for Accenture and primarily support our federal education sector.

I'm learning the world of software delivery and work heavily with both our engineers and clients, often acting as the interpreter.

ASK ME ABOUT... where to find the best bbq in every state I-20 passes through, my best questions for a college tour guide, and my favorite AirBnB find.

ABOUT ME: I grew up in Plano and graduated from TCA. After graduation, I went out to small, liberal arts college in South Carolina and graduate with an accounting degree, Since college, I've held a variety of jobs that have included serving pizza and teaching English with Fulbright Malaysia to asset management and technology consulting. I'm big believer in trying things at least once and RYLA definitely is part of that story so glad to be back and supporting camp this year.



COLIN CUNNINGHAM

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2011

EDUCATION: University of Notre Dame

WHAT I Do: Wavestone - Management Consultant

ASK ME ABOUT... Cybersecurity, Information Technology, Management/Leadership, Books, Basketball

ABOUT ME: Colin currently lives in Dallas, TX after spending time in Houston, Atlanta, and Kansas City and works as a consultant focusing in IT and cybersecurity. He was a camper in 2011 and has been involved with RYLA almost every year since because of the incredible leadership lessons he has learned and the genuinely amazing people he has met through the program. In his spare time, he loves reading, playing basketball, and seeing live music. He's super excited to meet this years campers and can't wait to help them grow as leaders.



LAUREN MAROLD

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2002

EDUCATION: Bishop Lynch High School; Texas State University, BFA - Art; SMU, Masters of Liberal Studies; George Washington University, Masters of Arts - Educational Technology Leadership

WHAT I Do: Educational Technologist at The Greenhill School; Educational Consultant

ASK ME ABOUT... Watercolor painting, gluten/dairy free cooking, my awesome family, and my love of teaching

ABOUT ME: I live in North Dallas with my loving husband and two kids. I support RYLA's educational programming throughout the year and I'm excited for this newest phase of RYLA as we launch RYLead.

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



BRITTANY MILAS

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2006

EDUCATION: West Mesquite HS, University of Texas at Austin-Architecture

WHAT I Do: Architect

ASK ME ABOUT... Design, Living in the Big Apple, Studying abroad

ABOUT ME: I love summer nights, volleyball, and blueberries. Sunshine and sand are the butter to my jam. I believe travelling exposes dreams you never knew you had. The poetry of space inspires me. I know this to be true: "Anyone has the power to do anything as long as they believe in themselves." (-recent student)



STEPHANIE HELMBERGER

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2011

EDUCATION: Farmersville High School, Collin College, Texas Tech University

WHAT I Do: Perkins + Will / Architectural Designer

ASK ME ABOUT... Big dogs in small apartments, TV shows, and Formula 1

ABOUT ME: I'm living in Dallas (#nocoast) and when I'm not picking up redlines for work, I like to dominate in Mario Kart with my roommate, drink all the coffee, and plan weekend getaways or game nights with my friends.



KEGAN DUNCAN

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2009

EDUCATION: Howe HS, B.A. in Youth Ministry & M.B.A. - Howard Payne University

WHAT I Do: DFW Regional Admission Manager - Texas State University

ASK ME ABOUT... College Admissions, Board Games, Drum Corps, My Cats

ABOUT ME: Born and raised in Texas. Worked in higher education throughout my career. You can find me most weekends watching sports, spending time outside, zoned out on Xbox, or playing board games with family and friends.



DALTON LEE

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2009

EDUCATION: Midwestern State University

WHAT I Do: Carrollton Farmers Branch School Independent School District, Security Systems Engineer, I support the school district with setting up cameras, badge readers, pa systems, emergency notification systems. All to help support the students and staff with a safer environment.

ASK ME ABOUT... Technology, Sports, Nerdy things, My RYLA experience, and my job.

ABOUT ME: I studied Management Information systems at Midwestern State University. I was in the technology support role from 2015-2020. I then took on a new role with security technology. I enjoy sports, gaming, and being outside.



SERA MUYCO

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2019

EDUCATION: University of Texas at Austin

WHAT I Do: Student

ASK ME ABOUT... travel, music, Austin, college, premed/medicine

ABOUT ME: Howdy! I am originally from Southern California and moved to the Dallas area in high school. I am a student at UT Austin studying Public Health with a minor in Health Communications. I am pre-med and hope to pursue orthopedics or anesthesiology. I absolutely LOVE being a longhorn and can talk about it for days! RYLA helped me find a place where I could meet the people who love me for me and I'm so excited for y'all to experience RYLead!!!

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



KRISTEN HELMBERGER

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2011

EDUCATION: Farmersville High School
Texas Tech University

WHAT I Do: Video Editor

ASK ME ABOUT... Living out of state, great television and the US Women's National Team

ABOUT ME: I'm living in Los Angeles (#bestcoast) and whenever I'm not editing videos about cars, I dominate in trivia with my friends, propagate all the plants, and cross-stitch some dope projects.



MACKENZIE DUNCAN

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2012

EDUCATION: Creekview HS, B.S. in Psychology - TCU

WHAT I Do: Middle School Science Teacher

ASK ME ABOUT... Camping, Paddle Sports, Experiential Education

ABOUT ME: I married my RYLA sweetheart, and we now live in Fort Worth with our two cats Ollie and Ozzie.



JONI UTZ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2008

EDUCATION: Mesquite High School, UT Dallas - BS: Speech Language Pathology, TWU - MS: Speech Language Pathology

WHAT I Do: Licensed Speech Language Pathologist serving Early Childhood Intervention in north Texas.

ASK ME ABOUT... Working with children, following your passion, and making healthy desserts.

ABOUT ME: I'm a licensed SLP, proud aunt to 9 amazing children, and have great Type-A organizational skills. Born and raised Texan, Bachelor series and I Love Lucy fangirl. I love meeting new people and can't wait to welcome you to the RYLA family!



BLAKE MARTIN

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2004

EDUCATION: University of Tulsa - BS: Accounting, BA: History, UT Austin - JD

WHAT I Do: Tax Attorney

ASK ME ABOUT... My yellow lab Patton

ABOUT ME: I get to talk to people in countries all over the world every day for work. I also play on an office soccer team that was scheduled to play a tournament in Mallorca this summer before Covid. Patton and I are trying to get in more hiking and camping this fall.



ROSS JORDAN

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2014

EDUCATION: Morehouse College/ Columbia University/ Ohio State University

WHAT I Do: Ph.D. Student/ Education

ASK ME ABOUT... College, sports, places I want to go when I get rich

ABOUT ME: Super nerd, who finds reading and writing fun. I am entering the 18th grade and I can talk sports all day, but never as cool as Tepper.



ANDREW "JOSEY" UTZ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2006

EDUCATION: Jesuit Dallas, Clemson University - Civil Engineering

WHAT I Do: Arup/Civil Engineer - designing railroads and roads

ASK ME ABOUT... Trains, engineering, sustainable development, how to be optimistic as a Dallas sports fan despite the inability of the teams to perform well consistently

ABOUT ME: I'm a licensed professional engineer in Texas, lover of sports, critical thinking, and Hard 8 barbecue. I attended International RYLA in Australia in 2014 and am excited to get to know you and welcome y'all to the RYLA family!



ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



KATIE HUBER

RYLARIAN SINCE: 1997

EDUCATION: Plano East Senior High School, SMU - BBA Finance, California Lutheran University - MS in Counseling and Guidance

WHAT I Do: A leadership development program in a healthcare company

ASK ME ABOUT... Exploring careers, resume and internship prep, gardening, exploring California and Colorado

ABOUT ME: Grew up in Texas, spent the past 14 years exploring California and Colorado with my husband John (RYLA '96) and our malamute Nixon. I love camping, rain boots, lavender, and RYLA.



CELESTE BUCCHAN

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2011

EDUCATION: Creekview HS, Bachelor's from Baylor Master's from UTD

WHAT I Do: Early Childhood Therapeutic Educator

ASK ME ABOUT... Organic skincare, reality tv, self-care, early childhood, and meditation

ABOUT ME: I am number three of four amazing sisters that make every day a party. I am very passionate about early childhood and helping children develop and process through trauma. For fun, you can catch me mixing up some skincare in my kitchen, watching the latest episode of Real Housewives or Love Island, and enjoying random dance parties of one. Welcome to RYLA, where the possibilities are endless and the family is irreplaceable.



BROOKE CANTRELL

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2005

EDUCATION: Royse City High School, Texas A&M - BA: Communication

WHAT I Do: Director of Sustainability for America's largest coffee service provider

ASK ME ABOUT... Travelling/living in Africa and Latin America; Spotting ethical brands; Using business to make the world a better place; Where Suzy and Sammy really are

ABOUT ME: I'm really into building supply chains that are as profitable for farmers as they are for the people who sell the final products to consumers. I don't understand what tick-tock is; please don't try to explain it to me. I have a dog you'll hear about because I just can't help myself. I grew up in Royse City, Texas, lived a few places, and now live and work in Little Rock, Arkansas.



TARYN BLACKSTOCK

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2015

EDUCATION: Applied Exercise Science at Oklahoma State University

WHAT I Do: Doctor of Physical Therapy Student at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

ASK ME ABOUT... OSU, physical therapy, enneagrams, my fiance, chai lattes, or starwars

ABOUT ME: Hi!! My name is Taryn Blackstock, I am a 2015 RYLA Alum from Prosper, TX! I am currently a 2nd year Physical Therapy Student at Texas Tech but went to Oklahoma State for my undergrad. I am a die hard OSU fan so you always find me in orange. I am engaged to a fellow RYLarian so RYLA is literally a part of my everyday life. I am so excited to get another opportunity to serve my favorite community!

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



BRADLEY ATUBA

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2013

EDUCATION: Lancaster High School | University of Texas at Arlington B.F.A Acting

WHAT I Do: Graduate student

ASK ME ABOUT... Literally anything Beyonce!

ABOUT ME: I'm currently earning my Masters in Acting at Southern Methodist University. I love when I get the chance to allow people to escape from their everyday circumstances. I like acting, dancing, Insecure on HBO, and weekend brunch.



EMILY SCHULTZ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2016

EDUCATION: Baylor University- BS Biology, The University of Cambridge-MPhil Pathology

WHAT I Do: Master's student at The University of Cambridge

ASK ME ABOUT... Baking the best chocolate chip cookies, viruses vectored by mosquitos, global health, and pursuing research

ABOUT ME: I am currently a graduate student in the UK completing my Master's in Pathology and I am passionate about all things related to Global Health. I love baking, petting every dog I see, riding my bike, and exploring new places when I'm not in the lab researching viruses!



LEXI SULLIVAN COOK

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2002

EDUCATION: Collin College-Associate's of Science

WHAT I Do: Legal Assistant for Sudden Wealth Protection Law

ASK ME ABOUT... DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS!!!

ABOUT ME: I was born and raised in Montana and moved to Texas my sophomore year of high school. I got to attend RYLA as a camper in 2002 and as an assistant counselor in 2003. I love to hike, float the river, and camp with my two kiddos and I'm obsessed with video games and Critical Role. Currently a resident of Phoenix, AZ, but I am SO EXCITED to be back with RYLA! I can't wait to see how you guys step out of YOUR comfort zones this year!



CAITLIN UTZ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2014

EDUCATION: John Paul II HS | Kansas State University

WHAT I Do: Interior Designer

ASK ME ABOUT... Disney, boxing, music and traveling!

ABOUT ME: Born and raised Texan. After college, I worked for the mouse at Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Then moved back to Texas and became a Registered Interior Designer. I love meeting new people and can't wait for you to join our RYLA family!



J BAILEY

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2012

EDUCATION: Howard Payne University, B.S. University of Oklahoma, J.D.

WHAT I Do: Attorney

ASK ME ABOUT... Vine being better than TikTok

ABOUT ME: I'm married to my best friend and in our free time we enjoy doing home renovations.



JESSICAY MAYS

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2015

EDUCATION: Rowlett High School | Texas A&M University

WHAT I Do: I will begin my career as an Audit Associate with KPMG in September

ASK ME ABOUT... CPA Exam, Prioritizing and Time Management in College, Studying Abroad

ABOUT ME: I graduated from Texas A&M University in May of 2021 with a Bachelors in Accounting and a Masters in Management. In September, I will start working at KPMG as an Audit Associate in their Dallas Office. I am currently spending time with friends and family, and doing my best to enjoy my last summer before starting work full-time.

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



TRAVIS CRAIG

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2004
EDUCATION: Frisco HS, UNT - BBA in Economics, UNT - M.Ed Higher Education Administration
WHAT I Do: Hospital Compliance with Conifer Health, Previously: Admissions

ASK ME ABOUT... Getting involved on campus, Choosing your major, History, Economics, Intramural Sports, What's On Your Mind?

ABOUT ME: I live in Carrollton and work within Healthcare Compliance. Prior to healthcare, I spent a number of years working/teaching on a college campus at UNT in Denton. My degrees are in Economics and Higher Education. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, music, being outside, and playing softball.



MARISSA DUSEK

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2014
EDUCATION: SMU - Masters & Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering,
WHAT I Do: GE Aviation Mechanical Engineer

ASK ME ABOUT... Residence life in college, engineering classes, finding work after college

ABOUT ME: I currently work for GE Aviation, and my job has taken me from Dallas, TX to Cincinnati, OH to Victorville, CA! In my free time, I love to read, craft, and spend time with my 13 year-old cat, Laine. I am super passionate about helping others on their leadership journey and I'm more than happy to talk to anyone, so feel free to reach out!



CHESTER HELMBERGER

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2019
EDUCATION: Oklahoma State University
WHAT I Do: Student

ASK ME ABOUT... Airplanes, Music, and College

ABOUT ME: Second year student at Oklahoma State. Welcome to the fam!



DESTINY BURTON

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2017
EDUCATION: Sam Houston State University
WHAT I Do: Paraprofessional/Student
ASK ME ABOUT... My Faith, Teaching, Balancing work & school, Planning trips, and where to get free things on your Birthday!

ABOUT ME: I will be working as a 5th grade Paraprofessional in Klein ISD while I finish up my undergraduate degree in Education! I love Jesus, planning things (especially trips... even though they end up not happening sometimes), baking chocolate chip cookies (and eating them of course), having photoshoots, and watching the sunset with my friends.



XIMENA MARTINEZ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2016
EDUCATION: Royse City HS, Collin College, Texas A&M University-Commerce - Education
WHAT I Do: Substitute Teacher at Royse City ISD & student

ASK ME ABOUT... Debt Free Degree, being a First Gen, & the awesome benefits of community college!

ABOUT ME: I will graduate with my associates from Collin College this semester. I have cashflowed my entire college degree by working 3 jobs since I graduated high school. It was hard, but it is SO worth it. I love listening to The Dave Ramsey Show, eating ice cream with my boyfriend, and living a minimalist lifestyle!



AVERY SINNATHAMBY

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2019
EDUCATION: The University of Texas
WHAT I Do: Second year student at UT

ASK ME ABOUT... service/advocacy, baking, & college!

ABOUT ME: I'm a neuroscience student on the pre-med pathway, obsessed with true-crime documentaries, advocating for mental health and all things Rotary!

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



CAROLINE BARKSDALE

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2014

EDUCATION: University of Alabama

WHAT I Do: Account Specialist at a Public Relations firm in Dallas

ASK ME ABOUT... Public Relations/Communications
ABOUT ME: My name is Caroline Barksdale and I'm an Account Specialist at a PR firm in Dallas. I was a RYLA camper in 2014 and an AC in 2015. I'm a Waxahachie High School graduate and University of Alabama alumna. I love trying new Dallas restaurants, traveling, and college football. RYLA introduced me to so many important leadership tools that I still use today, and I'm so grateful to still be a small part of such an amazing organization.



ROGER DAVIS-JAHNEL

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2018

EDUCATION: Naaman Forest High School | UTD- Political Science

WHAT I Do: Full Time Student

ASK ME ABOUT... Football, Video Games, College Life, Greek Life, Movies, Balancing Organizational Commitments with College Classes!

ABOUT ME: I am going into my Junior year at UTD, and I am majoring in Political Science. I have spent my time in college being involved in many organizations including the John Marshall Pre-Law Society, Chi Phi Fraternity, Terry Scholar Organization, and Collegiate DECA. In addition to this organizations, I am also preparing to spending a semester living and working in Washington D.C. as a part of the Archer Fellowship. My time in RYLA has provided me with a variety of tools that have allowed me to work well with others and serve effectively in leadership positions during my college experience. My RYLA family has been an amazing support for me and I am looking forward to expanding it during this year's RYLead program!



ELIESHA PEREZ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2018

EDUCATION: The University of Texas at San Antonio

WHAT I Do: Full-time student; Part-time Work Study assistant with UTSA's Honor College Experiential Programs; Second-year Summer AmeriCorps assistant at Heart House

ASK ME ABOUT... Community service, Citysquare Americorps, Alternative Breaks, tennis, the SA Spurs, dogs, Bruno Mars, J. Cole
ABOUT ME: Hi! I'm a Filipino-American third-year student studying Global Affairs with a minor in Economics. I aspire to work in the non-profit/NGO sector focusing on children and education. I love exercising, playing tennis, and playing just dance. In my free time, I like to listen to funny podcasts, play games, and nap.



ELLIE ODOM

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2018

EDUCATION: Texas A&M University

WHAT I Do: Student/Part-Time worker for Reynolds & Reynolds

ASK ME ABOUT: College, getting involved in extracurriculars, etc

ABOUT ME: Howdy! My name is Ellie Odom and I'm a third year at TAMU. I'm majoring in Biomedical Sciences and minoring in Psychology. I'm involved with IO Psych research and I work part time at a call center. I have two younger brothers and a dog Tex. I'm excited to help out with RYLA this year!

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



BROOKS POWELL

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2003

EDUCATION: Southern Methodist University

WHAT I DO: SENIOR ASSOCIATE/SENIOR MANAGER AT BOKA POWELL ARCHITECTS

ASK ME ABOUT... Travel, food, and working in architecture.

ABOUT ME: A graduate of Plano Senior High School and SMU in Dallas, Brooks is a seventh-generation Texan and wears cowboy boots literally every day. In his role as Senior Manager of Marketing and Business Development for Dallas-based BOKA Powell Architects, Brooks focuses on building relationships and strategic planning for new project opportunities. Through the Urban Land Institute, Brooks works with high school and college students and career and elected public officials to explore land use issues through the UrbanPlan program, a realistic development exercise designed to build better communities by creating engaged, informed citizens.



BRIA SAVAGE

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Grayson County College

WHAT I DO: Pharmacy Technician and Pre-med student

ASK ME ABOUT... Sport and other extracurriculars, my cats, and all kinds of music

ABOUT ME: Howdy howdy, I'm Bria Savage and I am a resident in the small town of Gunter, Texas and I love spending time with friends, exploring the state of Texas, and learning new things. In my free time I enjoy playing the clarinet, exercising, and watching movies. I dream of helping others and experiencing life's beauties as I do so. I can't wait to meet you all as you join the RYLA family!!

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



MADISON COURTNEY

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Melissa High School/
Wellesley College

WHAT I Do: English and Creative Writing

ASK ME ABOUT... Tiny Houses, Book Recommendations, crafting, and college essays (I tutor ;)

ABOUT ME: I am an avid reader and writer with an imagination that is pretty much impossible to reign in. I am attending Wellesley College in order to pursue a job in Publishing, specifically as an editor. RYLA has pivoted my view on leadership and I can't wait to continue my RYLA story with all of you!



ASPEN HOUGH

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Plano Academy HS,
UT Dallas

WHAT I Do: Neuroscience Student,
Zalat Pizza Shift Leader

ASK ME ABOUT... Mental health awareness, music, drug/prison reform, traveling

ABOUT ME: Born in St. Louis, moved to Plano 6 years ago. He loves going to concerts and live shows. Likes going outdoors and on adventures. I live to gain experiences and my goal is to travel to Greece to live out my Mamma Mia dreams or Forks for Twilight.



RACHEL SIMMS

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Plano East Senior High |
Texas A&M

WHAT I Do: Student Electrical
Engineering & Computer Science

ASK ME ABOUT... History, baking, March Madness, Disney, and 90s music

ABOUT ME: I enjoy reading, running, playing basketball, baking, and beating my family at board games. The past three years I have interned in the telecom industry, working towards being a consultant after graduating from A&M. I can't wait to meet everyone and welcome to the RYLA family!



AMANDA NOE

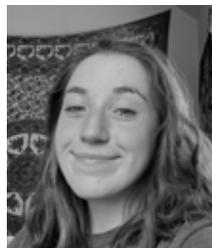
RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Plano West Senior HS,
Collin College

WHAT I Do: Student - Culinary Arts

ASK ME ABOUT... Food, Nirvana, art, anything J.R.R. Tolkien

ABOUT ME: Amanda is passionate about creating things. Some of which include food, art, and connections with the universe. As a native Texan, she loves to explore the beautiful trails and preserves of this state. She is so happy to meet all of the new RYLarians and hopes to make some new friends!



AUTUMN KRANZ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: New Tech High at Coppell,
Tulane University

WHAT I Do: Pre-Med Student

ASK ME ABOUT... Twilight, Disney, and Baking!

ABOUT ME: Born and raised in the DFW area. A few things Autumn likes to do is watch poor-quality films, such as Twilight and the Christmas Prince movies, make (and eat!) food/baked goods, and spend time with her friends. She is very excited to be a RYLA advisor this year... and to hopefully win camp cup (again!)



CARSON JONES

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Lebanon Trail HS, Texas
A&M University

WHAT I Do: Chemical Engineering
Student

ASK ME ABOUT... Sports, Dogs/Cats, Anime, R&B Music, and Clothing/Fashion

ABOUT ME: Some of my passions were tennis, science, and making connections with teachers and other staff. Most of my time is spent either working (at a Japanese hot pot restaurant) or going out with friends to play volleyball, basketball, or try a new boba spot. I really like talking to people so don't be scared to reach out!

ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



JULIA LIN

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Plano Senior HS, UT Austin

WHAT I Do: Business and Plan II Honors double major

ASK ME ABOUT... food, bullet journaling, dance, and fashion

ABOUT ME: I am a workaholic, shopaholic, foodie, bookworm, fashion enthusiast, and stationary addict. I'm taking every day one step at a time and living my life to the fullest. I love going on new adventures, and I'm excited to start another journey with the latest additions to our RYLA family!



EMMA EDWARDS

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: John Paul II HS, The University of Chicago

WHAT I Do: Linguistics and Chemistry

ASK ME ABOUT... Baking bread, languages, double tonguing, or Jueju poetry

ABOUT ME: I'm passionate about learning languages and soaking in the beautiful sun and rain of nature. When not thinking about new ice cream recipes, you can find me listening to Kpop or jazz, reading books from biology to history, riding my bike or playing some fun tunes on my flute.



JULIE JOHNSON

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: San Diego State University Communication

WHAT I Do: Student

ASK ME ABOUT... My Business

ABOUT ME: I am a student entrepreneur, avid reader, and travel enthusiast.



LANDRY LEWIS

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Plano Senior High School | Tulane University

WHAT I Do: Homeland Security and Political Science Student

ASK ME ABOUT... My dogs, cheesy horror movies, soccer, and hiking

ABOUT ME: I'm originally from Louisiana but moved to Texas when I was pretty young, so I've still got a Cajun heart. In my free time you'll find me enjoying the outdoors while on hiking trips with my friends or watching movies. I'm doing ROTC at Tulane in the fall so after graduation I'll be serving as an officer in the Navy. I'm so excited to see what adventures RYLA has in store for us this year, and of course, Roll Wave!



KEVIN UTZ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Jesuit Dallas, University of Missouri

WHAT I Do: Journalism Student

ASK ME ABOUT... Sports, Marvel, DC, Country music, Psych, and books.

ABOUT ME: I enjoy watching any type of sport. I love learning more about sports and talking about it with other people. I also enjoy watching the Marvel movies and tv shows. If you don't watch any of the Marvel movies, I am also a huge fan of Psych. Recently, I have started to read more books so I am open to talking with anyone that has any recommendations for me. I am really excited for this opportunity, and I can't wait to get to know y'all more.



ALUMNI YOU'LL MEET



MICHAEL DISTASI

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION/WORK: L.V. Berkner
S.T.E.M. Acadmy / Texas A&M

WHAT I Do: Biochemistry

ASK ME ABOUT... Video games, Comics, my pets, and Venture Scouts.

ABOUT ME: I'm someone who's taking their time to enjoy and discover life. If you have a recommendation for something, I'll be happy to hear it. If you need help with something I'll gladly give it to you. I like spending time with my friends and listening to music. I enjoy thrills and video games. A well placed joke will get me to laugh, and lately I've been vibbing with Hawaiian shirts.



PATRICIA VILLARREAL MARTINEZ

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Anna High School - Texas
A&M

WHAT I Do: Veterinary Biomedical
Sciences major

ASK ME ABOUT... Disney, Formula One, Ferrari, Marvel, languages, and Fast and Furious.

ABOUT ME: I am a person that is very dedicated to her family, so spending time with them is very important to me. We had the amazing opportunity to live in Brazil for a year before coming to the US and thanks to this I believe I can bring my experience of different cultures to the Ryla family! I have liked animals since I was little and making them part of my daily life would be a dream come true to me. I also love to read every now and then. Last year's experience in Rylead helped me become a better leader for my NHS chapter. I cannot wait to continue learning and help others in their process to become a Rylarian.



PEYTON ELLIS

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Collin College homeschool
| Austin College

WHAT I Do: Student

ASK ME ABOUT... traveling, art, baking, music, and all movies!

ABOUT ME: I love to paint, sketch, play board games, and do anything that keeps me active. I am an avid movie watcher of all genres. I am always on the hunt for the latest recipes to try. If you see me in a kitchen, or in general, I am probably dancing around to one of my many playlists. Rat pack, 80s, country, you name it. I hope you all will love being apart of the RYLA fam!



TYRON BUFFORD II

RYLARIAN SINCE: 2020

EDUCATION: Texas Tech University's
Honors program: Political Science
and minoring in Psychology

WHAT I Do: Cashier at GiGi's Cup-
cakes / Assistant Admin for Osterts
and Associates Nationwide

ASK ME ABOUT... My love for God and also my obsession for the ENTIRE twilight series!!!

ABOUT ME: I'm rising Freshmen who is in the fall going to attend Texas Tech university majoring in Political Science. I was born in Plano Texas and live both my mother and father and on my free time I love volunteering at various organisations along with spending time with family and friends while watching movies and hanging out. My hobbies include singing and acting and hope one day I can achieve my dreams of being a lawyer and starting up my own Non-profit organization