

# Camp RYLA

- a student leadership camp -



**May 24-29, 2026**

**"RYLA is amazing!** You learn a ton and don't even realize it because you're having so much fun."

- Amber Taylor, Sherman H.S.



**Check Out Our Videos at**

[www.RYLA5810.org](http://www.RYLA5810.org)

SCAN QR CODE





# FAQS



## What does “RYLA” stand for?

- Rotary Youth Leadership Award

## What is the purpose of RYLA?

- To develop leadership skills through teamwork, motivation and communication while emphasizing your particular strengths. RYLA helps you understand the unique qualities and abilities of others.

## What are the objectives of RYLA?

- To provide an atmosphere where you will experience learning situations to help you develop sound values.
- To promote an environment providing you with insight and understanding as a basis for intelligent leadership.
- To promote involvement that encourages you to think through appropriate actions based on values and ethics.
- To encourage you, through cooperative activities and group dynamics, to develop leadership skills that you can take back to your high school for modeling by other students.

## Who is the RYLA Committee Chairperson?

Dr. Dana Mackison  
1610 Millview Place, Carrollton, TX 75006  
Phone: (972) 467-0344  
Email: [Director@RYLA5810.org](mailto:Director@RYLA5810.org)  
Website: [www.RYLA5810.org](http://www.RYLA5810.org)





## Camp RYLA

Strong leaders are made, not born – leadership principles are learned, not inherited. Through Camp RYLA, leaders of tomorrow have a forum through which leadership skills and principles are learned, developed and enhanced.

**RYLA is a scholarship award program for current juniors who will be returning to their high schools as seniors during the 2026–2027 school year.**

The six-day leadership training camp imparts to over 180 students many facets of leadership through cabin activities, speakers, athletic events and team building exercises.

## A Typical Day



Days begin early with aerobic exercises and a hearty breakfast to get the body moving. Throughout the morning, campers attend speaker sessions, educational workshops and discussion groups.

Afternoons are filled with cooperative games and competition designed to build teamwork and spirit. In addition to volleyball and softball, the RYLA Olympics – held on the final day – are always a favorite.

Evenings are busy with social events and activities, allowing the campers to interact with each other. Between late-night snacks and dancing, there is always something campers will find enjoyable.

The day isn't over until campers return to their cabin for group discussion. This allows campers to reflect on the day's experiences and what they have learned.



## GROUP DYNAMICS

Each camper is assigned to a 12-person cabin consisting of 10 campers, an assistant counselor (who has been a previous camper) and an experienced counselor. Campers in each cabin are diverse leaders who represent high schools throughout the North Texas area.

Teamwork, communication and “consensus building” are developed as the cabin group faces the week's challenges together. In addition, each camper serves on various committee groups that actually take on the responsibilities of the day-to-day events. Each camper has something to contribute – everyone is involved. The source of most camp memories and shared experiences are the participation in these cabin groups.

## Camp RYLA 2025 Staff

**“RYLA opens  
you up to a  
whole new  
group of people  
you can trust  
and grow with.”**

– Parker Hevron





## How are Participants Selected?

RYLA campers are high school juniors who have excelled in one or more areas of high school involvement and who have proven leadership potential. Typically, camp participants have good academic records, hold offices and are involved in other student or community activities. Each year, more than 1500 students from 80 North Texas high schools compete for camp scholarships.



If you are interested in RYLA, talk to a high school counselor, student council coordinator, coach, principal or one of last year's RYLA campers at your high school. They will assist you by providing a Camp RYLA application and may coordinate student interviews with the local Rotary Club's RYLA chairperson. Interviews are usually conducted starting in February and are an important part of the competitive selection process. Applications should be completed fully and include a student photo and parental signature.

*Every day I use an aspect I learned from Camp RYLA. - Sly Majid*

*If you want to get to know yourself as a leader and a person, go to RYLA. - Aaron Mazyek*

# What do RYLA alumni say about camp?

*RYLA is a place to experience... I can't tell you. Find out for yourself. - Michael Sowards*

*RYLA was the stepping stone into becoming my own person. - Miguel Martinez*

*RYLA can show you a side of yourself that no one knew existed. - Clark Lanier*

*It's a week of discovering your true potential. - Hailey Beattie*

*Leadership is attained at the least expected moment. - Kazuomi Maotoike*

*RYLA is a place that opens your eyes and the possibilities. - Trent Lintzen*





## COMMITTEES

Twelve student committees are responsible for conducting many of the daily activities at Camp RYLA. This provides students with opportunities to practice their leadership skills and learn group interaction and responsibility “on the job.” Representatives from every cabin serve on each committee. Using the committee approach, each camper has an opportunity to learn by being a team member and follower in one activity – then being called upon in another challenge to serve as leader. Students are continually challenged to “step out of their comfort zone.” The tools they take away from Camp RYLA will benefit them, and they can use the new skills to the benefit of others in their school to set a positive example of leadership, ethical behavior and positive energy.

### Activities

Oversees the games and sports-related events that are part of the Camp RYLA experience.

### Campfire/Ceremonies

Coordinates and conducts a morning and evening flag ceremony and various assemblies during Camp RYLA.

### Entertainment

Organizes evening meal entertainment and creates opportunities to showcase camper’s talents through the week.

### Facilitators

Participates actively in the training portion of Camp RYLA. Greets and introduces speakers, and facilitates the lively group discussions.

### Good Morning RYLA & Podcast

This committee will accomplish the planning and execution of the newscast by working in pre-development, newscasting, and post production.

### Talent Night

This committee is responsible for planning, organizing, and executing the annual RYLA Talent Show presented during the week of camp.

### Newspaper

Publishes a daily newspaper with information gathered from students and originated by the members of the committee as reporters, cartoonists and writers.

### RYLA Theatre

Coordinates and produces a wonderful evening of skits, songs, dancing and hilarious fun for all campers.

### Memories

Creates memory videos throughout the week to help capture everyone’s experience.

### RYLA Art Project

For all artists, creators, and visionaries across every medium who will help to showcase their artistic interpretations in capturing the essence of the camp experience and reflecting the diverse backgrounds and unique stories of our student attendees.

### RYLA Culture Project

This committee will create a short performance or skit as part of the week’s closing wrap-up activities. The demonstration will serve as a reflection of the camp experience, highlighting the diversity of its participants, cabins, and the vibrant student community.

### Service

This committee will create acts of service throughout the week and work on planning a service activity for our Day 7 RYLA event in November. In partnership with District 5810 Rotary clubs the committee will also host a camp-wide service project on Thursday during camp, focusing on our mission of **Making a Difference** in our communities.





## Dates to Remember

### January

This month the selection process begins for the RYLA recipients. Local Rotary Clubs contact high schools to educate counselors, teachers, administrators and students about the unique opportunity known as Camp RYLA.

### February

Students who are interested complete their formal application for RYLA consideration. The applications are returned to the sponsoring Rotary Clubs and interviews are scheduled.

### March

The students applying for RYLA are interviewed and final selections are made. The sponsoring Rotary Clubs will select a primary and an alternate camper for each opening they sponsor.

### April & May

The original signed applications, including student photographs, of the primary and alternate campers are sent to the Camp RYLA registrar. These applications will be used to make cabin assignments - considering the backgrounds, interests and diversity of the campers.



The sponsoring Rotary Clubs check with the selected campers to confirm they are available to attend camp. If a primary camper is no longer available, the RYLA registrar goes to the pool of alternate campers to fill openings.

Campers and their parents plan to attend a camp orientation meeting to have any questions answered before camp.

### May

On Sunday, May 24, the sponsoring Rotary Clubs provide transportation to Camp RYLA. Campers arrive at the Camp Hoblitzelle between 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 29, the Rotary Clubs return to Camp RYLA to provide transportation home.

### June-September

Each sponsoring Rotary Club will invite its campers to attend a club meeting and share their week of experiences at Camp RYLA.

### November

**RYLA Day 7** - A follow-up event a few months after camp to provide another full day of outstanding facilitators, workshops, college readiness and leadership opportunities that maybe we didn't have time to accomplish during your week of camp.

**"RYLA is an amazing experience**

*- it challenges you in so many ways  
and reveals your true self."*

- Taylor Moore



## Facilities

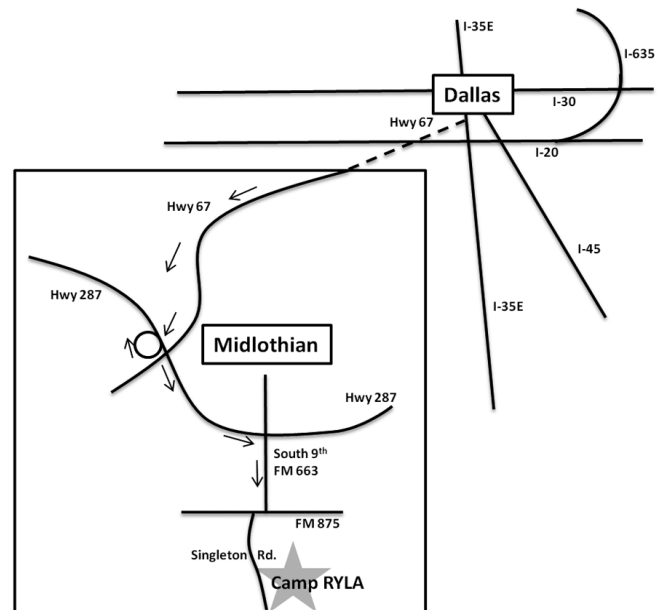
Camp Hoblitzelle is home to Camp RYLA. Located only one hour south of downtown Dallas, this facility provides a unique and productive atmosphere for Camp RYLA activities. Facilities include air-conditioned cabins organized in separate villages surrounding meeting spaces, and a large lakeside dining hall 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. Routes to Camp RYLA are shown on the map below.



**“RYLA isn’t a camp**  
it’s a family you gain that will be  
with you through the rough times  
as well as the good.”

– Russ Jenkins





# We had a great time during 2025 **Camp RYLA**



*"If you have an inkling of a chance to experience RYLA. **DO IT!**"* - David Moser

**"RYLA is not really a camp  
but a door to a brighter future."** - Alex Byron



**"RYLA is truly a  
one of a kind  
experience.**  
*From the outside  
looking in you can't  
understand it and from  
the inside looking out  
you can't explain it."*  
- Krish Clem



**"The best experience in my life!**  
*If I could have Camp RYLA again I'd accept  
in a heartbeat."* - Daisey Rodriguez

**"Forget  
Disneyland...  
Camp RYLA is the most  
magical place on Earth."**  
- Greg Tepper



# **C'mon! We're waiting for you.**