

What is RYLA?

RYLA = Leadership Skill Development

“LEADERSHIP SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TEAM BUILDING CURRICULUM IN A FUN SOCIAL SETTING”

RYLA MISSION STATEMENT:

Participants of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Camp will learn leadership skills, meet leaders of all ages and be inspired and empowered to expand their leadership roles in service to their schools, communities, and to the world, utilizing the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self.”

RYLA is a Rotary-sponsored camp for high school students providing experiential activities led by Rotarians and young professionals. Some activities are outlined below:

Leadership and Problem-Solving Workshops

These sessions shift focus to intellectual and interpersonal development:

- **World Problem Presentations:** Students are divided into groups to identify a community or global problem, research its issues, and propose solutions based on the Rotary 7 Areas of Focus. These projects culminate in a presentation delivered to other campers and families on the final day.
- **Interactive Simulations:** The curriculum includes "initiatives," which are simulations designed to challenge students' communication skills and leadership styles.
- A core component of the weekend is a hands-on service project that benefits the camp property, local environment or community.

Physical and Outdoor Challenges

The program heavily utilizes the camp's outdoor facilities to teach trust and teamwork through high-adrenaline activities:

- High Ropes Course: Participants use safety gear like helmets and harnesses to navigate elevated courses led by certified Adventure facilitators.
- Canoeing: Students engage in water-based recreation and teamwork on Clear Lake.
- Obstacle Strategies: Teams work together to create strategies for overcoming various physical obstacle courses.

Social and Mentorship Activities

- Guest Speakers: Local Rotarians and community leaders speak on the importance of community service and personal growth.
- Networking: Students from approximately 16 different regional schools attend, allowing for peer networking and the formation of new friendships.
- Sunday Picnic: The conference often concludes with a picnic for campers and their families.

WHERE: Battle Creek Outdoor Education Center, Clear Lake Camp

10160 M-37

Dowling, MI 49050

[Clear Lake Camp Website](#)

Cost Per Camper: \$300 is traditionally covered by the local Rotary club, who acts to sponsor campers. Please contact the camp director for more information.

WHEN: July 17-19, 2026

TIMES: Friday, July 17, 10:00am (attendee check-in) to Sunday, July 19, 4:00pm

For more information about how to register contact:

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