

Local High Schoolers Share RYLA Experience, Discuss Interact



Greensburg Rotarians hosted this year's Decatur County [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards \(RYLA\)](#) participants as they discussed their experience at [Bradford Woods](#), the memories they made and their plans for the future. This year's RYLA participants were: from North Decatur High School - Addie Gauck (Junior) and Ellis

Loehmer (Senior), and from South Decatur High School - Clair Schoettmer (Senior).

The students related their three-day experience, with Day One involving getting situated into their cabins, having their first meal together, a "Capture the Flag" game played in the dark, and a dance where everyone got to visit and relax.

Day Two started off with what Loehmer said was a breakfast with the best biscuits and gravy ever! This would be much-needed fuel for a very active day that included participants climbing (as high as they could) on the Alpine Climbing Tower as part of a "trust exercise" followed by a team exercise in which they learned about teamwork by working together to build the tallest structure they could using only sticks, logs, and wood from the forest floor. The day also included some listening and communication exercises such as "Telephone". The evening of Day Two started with archery and a zip line experience., then progressed into working together in their groups to develop a skit highlighting their time at Bradford Woods. The day wrapped up with a nighttime hike to their campfire location where they got to learn more about their fellow participants and teammates.

The final day included a trivia challenge, presentation of their skits, and an opportunity to write a letter to themselves about their experience. These letters will be sent back to them in January for reflection on their time at Bradford Woods and how they grew as a person.

All three of the Decatur County students said that RYLA was a fantastic experience from which others students would greatly benefit. In fact, they are discussing starting [Rotary Interact Clubs](#) at their schools as a way of getting more students involved.

RYLA is a Rotary-sponsored youth leadership training program for high school students, with over 9,000 youth sponsored annually by Rotary clubs in over 25 countries. The program is free for participants and, per the Rotary International website, is intended to "develop leadership skills while having fun and making connections." Participants are also introduced to the fundamentals of Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" and foundational principles of the organization.

Rotary District 6580 sponsors the RYLA program at [Bradford Woods](#) in rural Morgan County. Bradford Woods is owned and operated by Indiana University and includes modern cabins and facilities in a beautiful, outdoor setting. The counselors/facilitators at the facility are college students with majors associated with education and counseling. RYLA participants learn and practice leadership and team-building skills through a variety of adventurous "learn by doing" opportunities. Per the District 6580 website, "All (activities) require the participants to take a risk, give 100%, and be a supportive member of a team. RYLA students grow in self confidence, gain insights into positive group behaviors and interactions, develop leadership skills, make a lot of new friends, and have a lot of fun in the process."

ROTARY CALENDAR

- Nov 28 - John Corya - Gemstone
Dec 05 - (Rex McKinney)
Dec 12 - (Doug Orr)
Dec 19 - Service Project Day

OFFICERS 2022-2023

Alex Sefton	President
Jenni Hanna	Past President
Rob DeHoff	President-Elect
Lora Williams	Secretary
Linda Simmons	Treasurer
Jeff Emsweller	Public Relations
Nathan Vandrey	Bulletin Editor
Tami Wenning	Vocational Service
Daryl Tressler	Sergeant-At-Arms
Emily Steele	Club / Youth Service
Jerry Fox	Int'l Service
Kelby Owens	Membership Director
Larry Moore	Rotary Foundation Chair
Mandy Lohrum	Asst District Governor

GREENSBURG ROTARY PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Hey, all!

Happy Thanksgiving week! I hope it's a great one for you all and, even more than that, I hope you don't have to venture to Walmart at any point this week. It'll be a madhouse! Today, I'm reminded of all that I have to be thankful for. Jesus, my wife, my family, my friends, my community, my Rotary Club. But I'm also reminded that I need to be more thankful for the little things. Like the sunshine, running water, and the fact that our Christmas tree is up! Thanks for being who you are and for being an active member of our club!

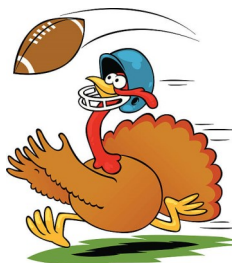
Hope you all have a great Turkey Day! You are loved!

Best,

Alex

GREENSBURG ROTARY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!

- District Assembly is on December 6 and will be held via Zoom. Please contact Mandy Lohrum to sign up! More info also available at the [District website](#).
- Poinsettia Sales Delivery & Pick-up Volunteer Sign-up sheet is attached to this bulletin and shows all shifts Dec 2-3 requiring support; Please contact Diane Hart-Dawson by phone at 812-663-9622 or by email at dianehd@dcfymca.org if you are able to help
- The Annual Rotary Online Christmas Auction is Dec 12-19; Items for donation should be dropped off with Tami Wenning at the Decatur Co. Community Foundation Offices (101 E. Main St., Ste 1, Greensburg) — Please drop off items early enough for photos to be taken and posted to the auction website!
- The Greensburg Rotary Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec 09 at the Bruner Event Center (102 N. Webster St., St Paul) beginning at 530p; The St Paul Museum (120 N. Webster St., St Paul) will remain open until 600p for interested Rotarians; Price is \$25/person; Catering by Deborah Sellers; A copy of official invitation is attached to this bulletin
- Rotary Youth Exchange Local Coordinator Needed: Greensburg Rotary needs a volunteer to act as local coordinator for the 2023/2024 school year Rotary Youth Exchange; this person will coordinate background checks with the district coordinator and work with the student, host parents, school administration, and Greensburg Rotarians to ensure the student has the opportunity to engage in multiple cultural activities and attend some local and district Rotary meetings and events. Please contact Alex Sefton or Lora Williams if interested!
- Upcoming Service Projects: Greensburg Rotary will be supporting the following events in December. Please sign up to support at the weekly meeting or by contacting Alex Sefton
 - Wreaths Across America - placing holiday wreaths on the graves of local veterans; This event is scheduled for 17 December
 - Cheer Fund donation collection at Needlers Grocery (volunteers will be inside the warm building!); This event is scheduled for December 22 with volunteers working in pairs for one-hour shifts
- Due to their proximity to Christmas and New Years Day, the weekly club meetings on 26 December & 02 January are cancelled



**Rotary Poinsettia
Volunteer Help Needed
Sign Up Sheet**

December 2 & 3, 2022 @ the YMCA

Friday, December 2, 2022

1:30 – 4:30 - Delivery

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3:30 – 4:30

1. Lora Williams _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

4:30 – 5:30

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Saturday, December 3, 2022

10:00 – 10:45

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

10:45 – 11:30

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Please let me know if you are willing to help deliver during your shift.

Thanks,

Diane

(812) 663-9622

dianehd@dcfymca.org

You're Invited

Greensburg Rotary Club

Holiday Party

WHEN Friday, December 9, 2022, 5:30pm
WHERE Bruner Event Centre, 102 N Webster Street, St. Paul
COST \$25/person
RSVP Emily Steele at 317-697-5480

Doors Open at 5:30pm

**Take Tour of
the St. Paul
Museum**

