



Rotary District 7570



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Seminar (RYLA) - 2012 and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Speech Contest

December 7-9, 2012

Dear Rotary Club President-Elect:

This information sheet is an introduction to the information you will receive on August 1, 2012. Please note that you will receive the RYLA and Speech Contest registration information via e-mail on that date from me through the Rotary P-Mail communication tool. The December program includes two important District 7570 Rotary youth activities: the **Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Speech Contest** and the **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Seminar (RYLA)**. These activities are scheduled for December 7-9, 2012. The Speech Contest will be the morning of Friday, December 7, immediately followed by RYLA, December 7-9.

The **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Seminar** continues to be an exceptional learning experience for eligible high school youth. Last year, 141 sophomores, juniors, and seniors from **Rotary District 7570** attended the weekend seminar. A power-packed leadership-focused weekend is planned for students. They will hear exceptional speakers; meet college-level student leaders in academics, sports, and community service. In addition, they will have ongoing opportunities to interact with fellow attendees as they are engaged in workshops and participating in social activities.

The **Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Speech Contest** will be held on Friday morning, December 7, just prior to the beginning of RYLA. The top three contestants from the morning presentations are the speakers at the afternoon Opening General Session for RYLA. In addition, they will give their speeches at the District conference in March 2013 and attend an area speech contest in North Carolina. There is a cash prize for the top three contestants. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention continues to be a timely focus for teens in leadership positions. Students in District 7570 face the same temptations, the same pressures, and the same dangers from the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs, as those teens across the country. The purpose of the speech contest is to help teens in District 7570 develop the skills and responses to inform friends and family of the ill-effects of alcohol and drug use, and to persuade others to avoid those dangers.

The registration deadline for both youth events is Friday, November 9, 2012.

We encourage you to begin to consider students your Club would like to sponsor for these youth activities. The students should be **FIRST-time** attendees. This is a unique experience and we would like to offer these programs to as many youth in District 7570 as possible. It is fine if the students are involved in their high school Interact, but that is not a requirement. We want to reach out to students interested in strengthening their leadership skills in whatever activities they are involved. *Please contact District Chair, Megan Franklin, if you absolutely cannot find **FIRST-time** attendees interested in coming to RYLA from your area school system.*

Contact information for District Chair, Megan Franklin is via e-mail at marmbrus@vt.edu or by telephone (W) 540-231-1437 (preferred) (C) 540-267-6638.