

Rotary District 5490, Arizona, U.S.A.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

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My name is Jerry Hanen and I am the chairman of a Rotary opportunity for high school students. It is called the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA). This is a tremendous program that helps teach leadership skills to the students that are selected to attend.

About five years ago I joined Rot4701 North Central Avenueary because my employer thought it might be beneficial for our business. Little did I know how beneficial it would be for me or the things I would find myself involved in. Rotary is a service organization that is very active both locally and internationally. My main interests in the organization quickly became their youth programs.

I got involved with RYLA and have not regretted it. We select 120 delegates from our district high schools that are identified as leaders or potential leaders. **In order for that to happen we need the help of the administration in the high schools.** We need your help and the help of the counselors to direct the appropriate students to our website to apply for this award.

What is the award? It is not a cash award but an award of training that is changing lives. We take the delegates to Prescott for a weekend retreat over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend in January. The weekend is sponsored by the multiple district Rotary clubs, so there is no cost to the students. The only thing that we need is for them to take at least a part of the day on that Friday off of school so that we can get them to the camp.

Who is the ideal delegate? We would like the delegates to be either sophomores or juniors. We have had some freshman in the past as well. Many of our delegates are already strong leaders in their schools and others are seen as having the potential of being leaders and this weekend has shown them that they were leaders and helped them to step up to that role. If your school has an Interact program, that is a good place to start looking for these students. Interact is a high school age program of Rotary that is centered on service to the community.

Finding the correct students will help your school as well as the community. I

welcome you calls if you have questions about the program. If you have someone that you think should apply to attend please have them go to our website and download the application and follow the instructions to apply. The website is www.RYLA5490.org At some point after October 31, all applicants will be contacted, typically via the counseling office, by the local Rotary Club representative for the interview process.

Applications are do by October 31, 2011.

My cell phone is 623-236-6501 and I would love to talk with you if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your help to make tomorrow's leaders.

Jerry Hanen
RYLA 5490 Chairman