

Great Plains RYLA Leadership Project

The leadership project is one of the most important aspects of your post-RYLA experience. This is an opportunity for you to take what you learned at RYLA and add it to what you already have and use it all in the development of a leadership project.

While the project is not a requirement to participate in Great Plains RYLA, it is required to receive the certificate of completion.

While we do not want to pigeon-hole you into what your project has to look like, there are some key things to know.

- Visit www.greatplainsryla.org and under the student link there will be a link to the project and will give more information as well as a frequently asked question section as questions come up.
- A leadership project is more than a service project. A leadership project requires you to use leadership skills in the development of the project. For example, say you wanted to clean up a forest. A service project would only require you to get the necessary tools and go out and do it yourself. A leadership project would be like getting more people on board to help, making arrangements to get key equipment, working with local forest officials, and giving direction to others.
- A leadership project may never require you to pick up a hammer, an axe, a shovel, or other items as long as you have others on board to assist with all aspects of the project.
- The project must in some way involve local Rotarians and while there isn't a specific number that have to be involved, as many as possible.
- There is no specific length the project has to take, but too short and you really didn't challenge yourself and too long and perhaps the scope of project was too big.
- Each participant is to come up with their own unique project. So if there are four students who attended RYLA from your school or community, there should be four distinct projects. The only exception would be if a major project that would be extremely involved and would be more than one person could manage in a single project. The projects should still be independent of one another in the end.
- The project should be of your choosing, but you should work with your local RYLA Representative and Rotary Club to help you hone your ideas and make sure your project isn't in conflict with Rotary International or the local club's policies. If you are in an Interact or Rotaract club, you can involve those members in the project as well, but be sure to work through your Rotary Club and get Rotarians involved in the project.
- The project should be something that has a clear beginning and a clear end. If there is no clear end, then a succession plan must be in place to continue the project.
- If photos and/or video can be taken throughout your work on your leadership project, please do so.
- You will submit a final written plan online and will be able to upload photos/videos to the Great Plains RYLA website.
- The project must be completed within one year of your finishing Great Plains RYLA.
- The project should be something new, not something you were already planning to do for another organization
- While it is not required, students are encouraged to review the applications they submitted for RYLA and review the questions related to ways to improve their local community and the world as one possible idea for a project. Also think about the various presentations, speakers, and activities from RYLA when thinking about project ideas.
- The scope of the project can be very local or be global in nature
- Remember the focus of the project is leadership, leadership, leadership