



STUDENT PACKING LIST AND INFORMATION

Great Plains RYLA is held at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp, located in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey NE. The camp facility is located in the Sandhills of northern Nebraska about 80 miles south of the South Dakota border. At this location in July, daytime highs are in the 90's with nighttime lows in the 70's. There are ticks, mosquitoes, and poison ivy to contend with, so pay attention to our clothing guidelines. There is also lots of wildlife including snakes, ground squirrels, birds, and even mountain lions have been spotted in the past. This is not meant to scare or worry you, but rather let you know the environment you will be coming into so you are prepared.

Every student will be provided a water bottle, so you **do not** need to bring one with you. You will be housed in cabins that are air conditioned. If you have a power strip, you may want to bring one to share since there are only a few outlets in each cabin. Each cabin has beds with twin mattresses, and 10-20 students, junior counselors, and senior counselors will be housed in each one. This may be your home away from home, but only bring what you really need, as space is extremely limited and electrical outlets are few. Showers and bathrooms are in or near to each cabin. There is not a need for much money unless you want to purchase something on the way up or the way back. There is a pop machine on site, but you must bring quarters, as change is not available on site midweek. Most campers bring enough clothes to change during the day after certain physical or dirty activities, but please limit your gear as much as possible.

You will want to rest up for a few days before RYLA. You will be on the move from early in the morning to late in the evening. We have included a packing list for you. This list has proved useful for past attendees.

While Great Plains RYLA is being held at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp, the Rotarians of District 5630 and past RYLarians are responsible for nearly every aspect of the program. The 4-H staff provide a few program items and meals, but other than that, a great group of volunteers involved in Rotary takes care of everything else.

Parents are encouraged to mail a note to their son or daughter while at camp. Parents should mail anything no later than Monday before camp begins to ensure that it will arrive by Friday.

Mailing Address

Nebraska State 4-H Camp

Attention: Great Plains RYLA – *Your Student's Name*

Halsey, NE 69142

Emergency Numbers at Camp:

First: 308.991.0267 (Monte Vonasek, Chair)

Second: 308.293.6417 (Cindy Houlden, Camp Coordinator)

Third: State 4-H Camp 308.533.2224 (Landline)

If you leave a voicemail, your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Camp attendees will receive a call from their junior and senior counselor prior to camp who can answer questions.

Necessary items:

- Bed sheets, sleeping bag, and/or blankets (twin bed)
- Pillow
- Bath towels and wash cloth
- Deodorant, shampoo, and other toiletries
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Appropriate clothing for five days, five nights. You will get sweaty and/or dirty, so you may wish to bring a couple extra changes of clothes. (No tank tops, muscle shirts, or half t-shirts are permitted except at bedtime)
- A set of grubby clothing for a service project
- One set of clothing/shoes that is appropriate business casual (Nice clothes you would typically wear to church or other nice function)
- One set of clothing for outside water activities. Swim trunks or shorts for males, swimsuit and shorts for females
- One set of clothing for going into a river (Everyone must wear shoes in the river and they must be closed-toed or water-shoes)
- Rain poncho or rain gear (a trash bag works in a pinch)
- Light jacket or sweatshirt for the evening
- Closed-Toed Shoes (Tennis Shoes) (at least two pair is recommended; one pair should be able to get wet/dirty in the river/service project). One pair should be good walking shoes (make sure new shoes are broken in before coming to camp)
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Prescription medication and directions for dispensing
- Non -prescription medication that may be needed throughout the week - pain and/or allergy medication
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Small Portable Fan and extension cord

General Codes of Conduct:

- Behave in a manner your parents and school administrators would be proud of.
- All students are expected to participate in all activities to the best of their abilities. Accommodations will be made to students with special needs.
- Boys and girls will have separate cabins and bathing facilities. Adults will be staying in each cabin alongside youth.
- Getting students to and from camp are the responsibility of each local Rotary club. Students cannot drive themselves nor have a vehicle at camp under any circumstances.
- If there is a problem with a student's conduct or if students do not follow the rules of RYLA, parents will be required to pick up their son or daughter early from Great Plains RYLA at their own expense.
- Student will not be allowed to show up late or leave early except in cases of emergencies. No exceptions. For emergencies, see above phone numbers.
- Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones to camp and are not to bring any other electronics to camp. Calling home will only be allowed one evening. Cell phones will be checked in with the RYLA staff and will be turned off. Students will be allowed to use State 4-H Camp phone in emergencies. If parents need to reach students in case of emergency, they can call the emergency numbers provided.

Optional items:

- Watch (NO smart watches allowed)
- Musical instrument or other items for talent show
- Camera
- Power strip (only 3-4 outlets for each cabin of 10-20 people)
- Spending money (bring quarters for pop machine)
- Alarm clock (cell phones or other similar devices will not be allowed to be on students or in cabins; counselors will wake students without alarm clock)
- Open-toed shoes (flip-flops/sandals) (Only in cabins)
- Cell phones – Anyone bringing a cell phone will be asked to check them in when you arrive. They will be returned to students to make calls to parents on the last evening of camp and for photos the last day of camp.

Items NOT PERMITTED at camp (these are non-negotiable):

- **Tobacco Products**
- **Vaping Supplies**
- **Alcohol**
- **DVD/CD Players/iPods/Laptops/iPads/MP3 Player/Other Similar Electronic Devices**
- **Fireworks**
- **Matches, lighters, or other fire producing devices**
- **Knives, firearms, archery or other shooting equipment**