



THANK YOU!

You might not know it yet, but you are about to change the lives of some high school juniors...and they don't know it yet, but they are about to change yours!

RYLA is an amazing experience for everyone involved...the Rylarians, Facilitators, Alumni and Committee. It is a special weekend and we are excited to share it with you!

The 2018 RYLA Alumni have put together a few things to help you out.

These things include:

Helpful Tips

A few things that will help make your family meetings run smoothly as well as help your family get the most out of RYLA.

A Family Bio

Each Facilitator and Rylarian are assigned to a family. This is who you will spend the weekend with. This year, the family names are colleges and universities. The Alumni have put together a bio on each of the families to provide you some information on the college or university. These colleges and universities were selected by the Alumni and you have been assigned to the family at random.

Availability for Questions

The RYLA Alumni will be at Facilitator Orientation on April 14th for the morning portion. They will introduce themselves and there will be some time for you to ask them questions.

**Thank you again for volunteering your time and
being a part of RYLA!**

Tips for a Facilitator

Items to have with you at your Family Meetings:

- **Snacks** – there is plenty of food at RYLA but it is nice to have some small snacks for your family meetings. There will be a total of five family meetings. Trail mix, granola bars, individually packaged sweets (M&Ms, Twix, Hi-Chew) are some examples.
- **Pens** – pens are provided to each student – but they get lost, run out of ink, etc. Having a few extra pens will be helpful
- **Family Identifiers** – there are 32 different families at RYLA and it is nice to have something (or a few things) to set your family apart. Keeping this simple but fun is key. A few ideas: bandanas, headbands, necklaces/leis, socks, or temporary tattoos.
- **Other helpful items** – students forget to pack things or to put it in their backpack when they leave the dorm for the day. Having a few items with you will be nice for the students. These items include: hair ties, chapstick, sweatshirt (just one or two), blanket, etc.

What Works:

- **Know the schedule** – knowing where your family is supposed to be and when is key. Make sure your family knows what is next to ensure everyone is at the right location at the right time.
- **Have meaningful family meetings** – taking notes during the speaker sessions is helpful to be able to have questions to discuss in the family meeting.
- **Making sure everyone has a chance to talk/share** – not everyone will want to share but it is important that they feel that they had the opportunity to do so.
- **Be open and willing to share** – sharing with your family will help make them comfortable to share.
- **Expect the unexpected** – Your family will become more open and willing to share. Keep in mind that some of the things they will share might be difficult for them to talk about. Remember to be supportive and affirm how they are feeling.

What Doesn't Work:

- **Not knowing the schedule** – showing up late or missing a session means that the Rylarians don't get the full RYLA experience and it is disruptive to others when a family walks in late.
- **Too many games during family meetings** – games are great, but discussions are better. Discussing the speakers, and other meaningful topics will help your family open up and become close.