

Castle Head Field Centre, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6QT. 9th - 13th October 2017

Information and Guidance for Schools and Sponsoring Clubs

Eligibility: All students aged 14 to 16 on 31st August 2017

Suitable students: The course is designed specifically to offer students the opportunity to develop confidence and self-esteem and to enhance a belief in their abilities and talents. We would like you to nominate young people who would fulfil more of their potential in school, and in their lives, if given the opportunity to develop these qualities. IT IS NOT A LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY SUPER CONFIDENT, NOR IS IT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR. The course is highly motivational, encouraging self reliance and initiative within a team context. Rotary clubs should work with schools to select the student who they feel **will benefit the most**. Guidance notes to help identify suitable students are included below.

Activities may include canoeing, abseiling, gill scrambling, hiking, and a two day expedition. The students are closely supervised by specialist youth leaders at all times.

Selection process: Schools or other youth organisations should be invited to nominate a few potential and suitable students who are willing and able to attend the course. We advise schools and clubs to work together in May/June 2017 to identify the students prior to the end of the summer term. Students should be invited to enter at the very start of the Autumn term and Clubs have approximately two weeks to submit entries. We also recommend that the selected student(s) is/are invited to have a chat with a young person sponsored on RYPEN in 2015 in order to allay any concerns or anxieties.

Equipment: A list of the Kit which it is recommended that the student takes to the course will be provided. If the student cannot obtain some items the Rotary Club or Castle Head should be able to help.

The cost: Rotary clubs sponsor each participating student at a cost of £407.00.

Transport to and from the course: Parents/clubs/schools co-operate to take the student to the course on Monday 9th October arriving at around 9.30am and collect the student on the Friday 13th at 2.00pm and no later than 3.00pm. RYPEN and Castle Head will need to know beforehand who is taking and collecting each student.

Booking a place on RYPEN: A RYPEN Entry Form should be completed by parent/guardian and school and submitted by the sponsoring club, together with a cheque payable to "Rotary District 1190", to the District Co-ordinator, Sheena Marsden, 59 Greenways, Over Kellet, Carnforth. Tel: 01524 733359 . sheenamarsden117@gmail.com

To be received by Monday 11th September 2017 at the very latest.

Guidance as to Students suitable for RYPEN

These notes are intended to help the Rotary Clubs, Schools and other nominating organisations who are identifying and selecting young people for the Rotary District 1190 RYPEN course in October 2017.

The aim of the course is to give young people aged 14-16 on 31st August 2017 the opportunity to develop self-confidence and self-esteem and to enhance a belief in their abilities and talents. As they grow young people develop these qualities at different rates. 90% of students in our schools are not top of the class or captains of the teams, leaders of their school community or already achieving great things. They just need an opportunity to discover their untapped potential, boost their confidence and develop a belief in their own abilities. These are the young people who will gain so much from RYPEN.

RYPEN is all about enriching the lives of young people with obvious untapped potential. It's not about rewarding those who are already super-confident and already demonstrating high levels of leadership. Equally, it's not for young people with behavioural challenges or other serious issues as this is a completely separate side of youth work

and beyond the scope of RYPEN. Young people attending specialist educational establishments will not be suitable RYPEN candidates.

It is important that a RYPEN course contains a blend of young people from all backgrounds. It could be argued that the more diverse the mix of participants the more benefit each individual will gain from the experience. However, it is vital that the course is made up of young people who, regardless of background, are recognised as fitting the profile described above.

On the practical side, it is important that prospective participants know exactly what is expected of them. They will be away from home, possibly for the first time. They will probably not know anyone on the course and will undoubtedly be a little daunted at the thought of what lies ahead for them. They should know that the sponsoring Rotary Club are not just paying for the course but will also have someone who will be a point of contact and offer support. If they can't provide transport to attend the course Clubs will step in and be prepared to help.

Participants will also need to demonstrate their willingness to take part in all the various challenging activities. If they don't have their own kit, it can be provided for them. Emphasise the enjoyment and the fun element of the course and that they don't have to be good at the activities, just prepared to have a go.

One of the most important considerations when nominating or interviewing prospective participants is to stress that, if selected each individual is making a commitment to attend the course. But young people lacking in confidence may feel pressurised to say yes for something that they don't really want to do and might later pull out and your efforts will be in vain. **It always pays to have an alternative candidate to fall back on if this happens.** One way to reduce the risk of a selected student pulling out is to offer them the opportunity to talk on the phone or meet the young person who attended RYPEN last year. Then this person can excite the selected young person and alleviate their anxieties.

The skill of those nominating and/or interviewing prospective participants is to recognise the individuals who need a boost or a helping hand as they develop. They are the ones who will benefit the most from the RYPEN experience. The success of the course and, more importantly maximising the benefit to the young people, will depend upon the ability to identify the right candidate.

RYPEN TIMETABLE + A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR ROTARY CLUBS

- Initial contact with the School is best done by appointment (face-to face with the Head Teacher) no later than the end of May. (If you are leaving your NG job at the end of the Rotary year get this done before you go!)
- Ensure that the School has prepared the shortlist of potential RYPEN students in June. Experience proves that the best time to first contact the shortlisted Students is at the start of the new term in September not before.
- Arrange with the School in June to chat to the candidates in September. Get it in the Schools' diary!
- Keep in touch with the School. Remember that nothing will happen over the summer holidays.
- With everything in place from the previous term, talk with the shortlisted candidate/s at the very start of the new term in September. Provide the selected young people and their parents with all the Course information and entry form. Encourage the parents to return the Entry Form to you as soon as they can!
- You will only have the first two weeks of term to get everything in place, so the preparation done in May and June is vital. Please don't be one of the many Clubs who get going far too late, run out of time and thus disappoint all concerned.
- Good communication between your Club, the School and the parents is vital but be prepared for a student to accept a place on the Course only to later decline having thought it over. Have an alternative option up your sleeve.
- Put as much information about your candidate on the entry form. It will make such a difference to their RYPEN experience.
- Get the entry form completed and submitted as soon as possible. Deadline is Sept 11th 2017.

Extra Information about RYPEN can be obtained from;

Sheena Marsden, 59 Greenways, Over Kellet, Carnforth. LA6 1DE TEL: 01524 733359

Email: sheenamarsden117@gmail.com

RYPEN 2017