

ROTARY YOUTH PROGRAMME OF ENRICHMENT RYPEN 2018

**Castle Head Field Centre
Monday 8 October - Friday 12 October
2018**

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND SPONSORING CLUBS

Eligibility All students aged 14, 15 or 16 on 31 August 2018

Suitable students The aim of the course is to give young people the opportunity to develop self-confidence and self-esteem and to enhance a belief in their abilities and talents.

RYPEN is 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. Young people attending specialist educational establishments will not be suitable RYPEN candidates. 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 very 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(s) who they feel will benefit the most.

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.

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.**

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 are invited by the sponsoring club to identify a few suitable students who are willing and able to attend the course. We advise schools and clubs to work together in May/June to identify the students prior to the end of the summer term. Students should be invited at the very start of the Autumn term and Clubs have approximately ten days to submit forms. We also recommend that the selected student(s) is/are invited to have a chat with a young person sponsored on RYPEN in 2017 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

Transport to and from the course Parents/clubs/schools co-operate to take the student to the course on Monday 8 October arriving at around 9.30am, and to collect the student on Friday 12 October at approximately 2pm after the final presentation and lunch. 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 10 September 2018.**

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. Give the school a copy of all the paperwork, and explain the importance of selecting suitable candidates. Ensure that the School has prepared a shortlist of potential RYPEN students in June.

Experience suggests 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!

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 completed 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 important

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 candidate in mind.

Put as much information as possible about your candidate on the entry form. It will make such a difference to their RYPEN experience.

Entry forms need to be completed and submitted as soon as possible, but no later than Monday 10 Sept 2018.

Further information is available from

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

Email: sheenamarsden117@gmail.com