

# New Year in RYLA!

## SPRING RYLA 2022 WAS A SMASH HIT!

This year's Spring RYLA was a huge success. With the hard work of this past year's SL committee, we pulled off our first in-person full capacity Spring RYLA since 2019. With full COVID safety protocols including mask wearing, hand sanitizing, and testing done onsite, we kept everyone safe and having fun!



### WHAT'S IN THIS EDITION:

- NEW! SLs.
- Upcoming Chaperone Opportunity, Summer '22
- Extra Special Alumni Spotlight



This year we were joined by 120+ high school sophomores from Long Island, Queens, and Brooklyn. This was our most diverse RYLA yet. They were welcomed by our 10 Senior Leaders, 8 Senior Crew, 48 Junior Facilitators, 19 Alumni Chaperones, and 20+ Rotarians.

# Meet Our NEW SLs!



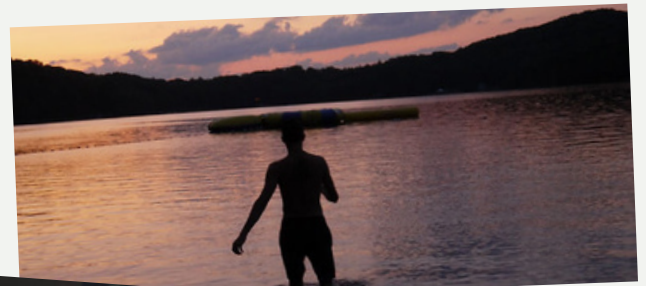
## SUMMER RYLA 2022

Our annual Summer program is entering its 11th year this July 31st through August 8th.

We would love to see some familiar faces more often! If you are ever interested in chaperoning please reach out at [ryla.alumni7255@gmail.com](mailto:ryla.alumni7255@gmail.com)

## HELP US WELCOME THE 2022-2023 SENIOR LEADERS!

Ben Proothi, Ward Melville  
Clayer Gayer, Eastport South  
Manor  
Gabriella Mendoza, Young  
Women's  
Leadership School of Astoria  
Gavin Vanderschaff, West  
Hampton  
Isabel Gonzalez, Beacon School  
Jeannie Correa, Valley Stream  
Melani Quitasaca, Bayshore  
Paige Garvin, Southampton  
Ronan Flynn, West Babylon



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# Alumni Spotlight

## SYDNI GROSSMAN



Hi RYLA family!

My name is Sydni Grossman and I am a proud RYLA alumnus from Syosset High school. I first entered RYLA in 2012 and had the privilege to serve as a facilitator, youth committee member (The old term for SL) and an alumni co-chair. I am happy that I can continue to be involved with this program and to help develop skills of a new generation of leaders.

Throughout my involvement with RYLA, I've been able to develop my leadership skills in public speaking, organizing and managing interpersonal relationships, just to name a few.

I attended Quinnipiac University (QU) in Connecticut where I graduated in 3 years with my Bachelor's in Health Science Studies. I also attended graduate school at QU where I earned my Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2020. Throughout my time at QU I became very involved with the school and local community. One example was when I was able to further develop my leadership skills as the event chair for QU's first annual wheelchair basketball tournament. I was able to build on the foundation that RYLA laid in order to make the event a success.

Since graduating, I've been working in a hospital as a physical therapist (PT). I work in an interdisciplinary environment and have to consistently advocate for my patients. It can be intimidating at times, but I've been able to develop the confidence in myself to do it.

# Alumni Spotlight

The past couple of years has definitely been difficult, but I'm grateful for the resilience and ingenuity that RYLA has helped teach me. I'm currently working on a mobility initiative in the hospital to help decrease length of stay and prevent patient deterioration. I'm excited to continue to develop my leadership skills throughout my life and my career! To me, leadership isn't just running events or fundraisers, but being a good person who leads by example and isn't satisfied with sticking to the status quo.

I'm grateful for the experiences RYLA has given me and I hope y'all stay involved or get back involved because it really is a great organization!

## THANK YOU SYDNI GROSSMAN



We would like to thank Sydni for all her years of dedication to our RYLA Program. She has taught us so much about what it means to be a leader throughout her time as a RYLarian, Facilitator, Youth Committee Member, Adult Committee Member, and Alumni Co-Chair. It was our honor to serve alongside her in this role for 2 years. **She is a true RYLA ICON, LEGEND, AND TRAILBLAZER.**

with Gratitude Yean and Harry

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