

RYLA 2008

In 2008, Lakewood Rotary sponsored two students for Rotary International's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) program – a wonderful week of fun, friendship, and learning in the sun and the classroom. RYLA is a program to encourage and assist young people, ages 14-18, in the development of their leadership skills. Its aims are to demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth; provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders; encourage leadership of youth by youth; and recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities.

Several Lakewood Rotarians spent a day with the students during the week-long program at the YMCA Camp of the Rockies in Estes Park, to gain first-hand knowledge of our students' activities. Rotarians included Dennis Lovaas, Sadru Shariff, Mary Anne Fleet, and Lou Hassoun, President of Lakewood Rotary. A sign on the meeting room door read: "Caution, future world leaders at work and play." We observers agreed that our society will be in good hands as these young leaders of the future take their place. For further information on RYLA, please contact Lou Hassoun at 303 695-8662.



Vanessa, left, one of the students sponsored by Lakewood Rotary in 2008, engages in brainstorming with a couple of the 250 young people who attended the RYLA camp in 2008.