

Gage Harper
P.O. Box 307
Eagle, CO, 81631
(970) 988-3592
lgageharp@gmail.com

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Lloyd Thomas
Co-Chair
RYLA Committee of the Fort Collins Rotary Club
802 W Drake Rd.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Thank you for allowing me to attend RYLA. This week has been one of the most enriching weeks of my life.

At RYLA, we performed many activities, like hiking or playing volleyball, but some of these activities that we did had some impact on me. The activity we did on the second day called "We're All in This Together" called out the people who went through many hardships. In fact, many people shared many of those hardships, and there were none who didn't have one in their life. I took away that you really don't know a person, and that all of this stuff happens to everyone. Another speech that impacted me the most was Tanis Roeder, who taught me how to utilize my handshake for success.

However, the most meaningful activities for me were the comedy skits and the talent show. As for me, I used my acting skills to try to make the skit funny or my talent (which was comedy) funny. People laughed and turned red, which indicated that I was successful in making people laugh. I was feeling proud of myself for the first time in ages. It wasn't because of the supportive community up there either that allowed me to feel that way, it was simply that I got up on stage on my own, regardless of my feelings about how other people's skits were much better than mine, or the fact that other people had much better talents than me. I learned that in order to make an impact, you have to be bold and brave, such as getting up on stage. That is the hardest part to starting an organization.

At school, I will try my best to show good leadership skills. I want to be expressive and meaningful like I was at camp. I want people to laugh with me and to have people follow me in my footsteps in making themselves better, like I did. I hope I can be part of my schools pep rallies, and maybe my senior year I could lead them.

Again, thank you for allowing me to go to this camp. I absolutely loved it and without a doubt I am going next year. This week was life-changing for sure, and I will never forget it and I will never forget that you made it happen.

Gage Harper