**RMRYLA Board Report**

**Details about potential new Rotary youth program**

**S.E.E.D (Supplementary Early Education Development)**

Initiated by Dana Kiel, Zoe Diaz-McLeese, and Sierra Ashley

January 12th, 2014

As part of our sophomore “Community Change Initiative” through the Pioneer Leadership Program at the University of Denver, we are working to develop an after school program to teach 5th-7th grade students skills such as teamwork, communication, creative problem solving, empathy and non-judgment, awareness of personal strengths and weaknesses, and motivation for community involvement.

We are currently developing a 6-8 week curriculum composed of games, activities and readings designed to teach the aforementioned skills in a fun, engaging environment (much like a condensed, afterschool version of RYLA or YRYLA). We plan to “beta-test” this curriculum with ourselves as facilitators in a Denver school before advertising the program as a service opportunity to motivated high schoolers who are looking to get involved in their communities. We are designing a website that will house our curriculum with user-friendly facilitation guides, tips for facilitation and debriefing, resources for setting up a SEED program (contacting schools, finding funding), and an online support network for questions and feedback.

We are hoping to partner with Rotary and RYLA to get this program off the ground, and ideally market it as a Rotary Youth Program that can be run by interact clubs, rotaract clubs, and returning RYLArians. The three biggest things we need right now are funding, support in curriculum development, and an expansion plan to reach out to motivated, service-minded high schoolers who would initiate the program in schools in their communities.

**Funding:**

We hope that an afterschool program will be much cheaper than sending kids to RYLA or YRYLA, and thus have the potential to impact more deserving youth though a program with similar aims. We seek funding from RMRYLA for the cost of the test-run program, and after that we hope to put high school students in touch with local Rotary clubs to fund each program run. These are our anticipated costs:

1. Overhead cost:
2. Website- $48 a year through Weebly.

2. Cost per program run:

a. Snacks- $20 per session x 8 weeks = about $160

b. Materials- rope, blindfolds, toothpicks and marshamallows, etc. Depends on which activities we ultimately select for the curriculum, not expected to exceed $150.

**Curriculum Development:**

If RMRYLA chooses to fund our project, we would like to work with the program committee so that our activities are seen by another set of eyes and RMRYLA has a say in what we incorporate.

**Expansion:**

We would like to utilize RYLA and Rotary networks to create awareness about the program and connect with Interact/Rotaract clubs, RYLArians and Rotary clubs that might be interested in setting up SEED programs in their communities. This might include:

1. Speaking about SEED at RYLA summer conferences during the Rotary Youth Programs section.
2. Emailing past RYLArians to invite them to start a SEED program.
3. Emailing interact and rotaract clubs around the country.
4. Other ideas??