

January 15, 2024

Dear Rotary Club of San Francisco,

My name is Lizbeth Mendieta. I am a first-generation student at the University of California Santa Barbara. I grew up in Novato and attended Novato High School. I am the second of four children raised by two Mexican immigrants. I have always been interested in taking on leadership positions in my community. When I heard about the opportunities that RYLA offered for leadership development, I quickly applied to the camp. I learned how to develop leadership skills that I would later be able to use in the work I do in the community.

Although I only did RYLA in a Box, I still felt motivated to apply to be an alumnus. I was finally able to implement the skills I learned at RYLA at the in-person camp in July 2022. I met amazing people that I am still friends with today, such as campers and fellow alumni. We were able to have fun while also leading groups of campers who were passionate about learning what it meant to be a leader. It felt great to work in a team full of peers and Rotarians because there was so much to be learned by both groups.

I am extremely thankful that the Rotary Club was able to provide a scholarship to me. It felt like a last “thank you” from Rotary before camp was over. The scholarship was helpful to me as I was going to start my college applications and relieved some stress I had over them.

I am now a first-year student at UC Santa Barbara. I feel like I couldn’t have gotten to where I am now without the help of RYLA. It has been a large part of all the activities I’ve done, which ultimately led to my acceptance into college. So, once again, thank you so much Rotary Club of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Lizbeth Mendieta

