



2021 Young Environmental Leaders **Information** and registration pack

Everything you need to know about the Murraylands and Riverland Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) Program including program overview, dates, themes and registration links for each forum.

2021 YEL information pack

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Overview

This program is free and open to students in years 5-7. It will provide students with outstanding opportunities to develop as young leaders with public speaking and presentation skills as well as a connection to and respect for their local environment.

In 2021 there will be forums held once per term in the **Murraylands** region and one per term in the **Riverland**. Where possible we aim to host "in-person" forums following current COVID-19 restrictions. In the event that a forum needs to be postponed or cancelled, we will endeavour to provide alternative content.

What's the aim?

Empower young people and ensure they have a connection with nature and their local environment so they can appreciate it into the future.

Involve as many local schools as possible and provide students with the opportunity to develop as young leaders.

Encourage the 'ripple effect' with students learning through hands-on activities and sharing back at school and with the wider school community.

Encourage students to get involved and take action within their local environment, community and at home.

Need to know:

YEL forums are open to all Murraylands and Riverland schools and caters for students in years 5-7.

The forums will be held in different locations across the region so some travel is involved.

Schools are encouraged to bring four students to each forum (easy for transport). You can rotate students OR choose 4 to attend all forums. If you would like to bring more than 4 to a forum (eg. your environment group) please arrange this with your Education officer.

Schools will need to register the attending students for each separate forum via the Eventbrite link(s) provided.

What's involved?

Schools are invited to attend as many of the forums as possible (there is no requirement to attend ALL forums). Places will be limited to allow for suitable group numbers at each forum.

At least one adult/teacher/mentor/parent from each school must attend the forum(s) to supervise the students and assist with learning and activities.

There is one YEL forum per term in both the Murraylands and Riverland Districts, and forums run from 9:45 am-2:00 pm.

YEL forum themes for 2021:

Term 1: biodiversity

Term 2: sustainable farming

Term 3: pest plants and animals

Term 4: water

Forums are based on the themes and include hands-on activities and personal skills development for all involved.

Participants bring morning tea and lunch to each forum. The Education team provides tea and coffee for teachers/adults and water to refill bottles.

There is no cost involved.



Benefits

The YEL program provides many benefits to schools as well as students, teachers and mentors who attend the forums. Here are just a few:

Students

Develop a connection to the natural environment resulting in smarter, healthier and happier kids who are more mindful of their surroundings.

Develop confidence and skills in leadership, public speaking, peer teaching and more.

Build friendships and share ideas with students from other schools.

Develop knowledge and skills in caring for and conserving our local landscapes.

Be inspired and empowered to take action and make changes in their local community and at home.

Be rewarded for their efforts in learning and sharing throughout the year.



Schools and community

Direct links to the curriculum-these are not add-on projects! This is learning in authentic context.

Develop relationships with community members, partnership schools and outside agencies including Landcare groups and the Education Program.

The YEL students pass on knowledge, skills and what they have learnt to peers, friends and family members.

Improved sustainability due to student-led projects e.g. improved biodiversity or waste reduction.

Where possible the Education team will provide in-school support for learning and on-ground projects.



Teachers/mentors

Will receive information to assist with lessons, resources, activities and curriculum links to share at school.

Have the opportunity to network with and learn from other teachers and professionals.

Develop knowledge and skills in caring for and conserving our local landscapes.

May receive professional development recognition for the forums they attend.



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Curriculum

Information and activities used at YEL forums can be linked to many subject areas in the curriculum, particularly Science, HASS, Health and Physical Education, and Maths.

The YEL activities tie in well with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Environmental issues are often challenging, requiring complex solutions. The Education team encourage the use of hands-on practical activities that help learners experiment, use new technologies, test ideas and make/create innovative solutions to real, complex problems.

Relationships with local industries and communities are also important to both teacher and student learning in both STEM and sustainability. The YEL helps develop these relationships through guest speakers and linking with existing environmental projects.

Examples of links with the Australian Curriculum

Students explain interconnections between people and places and people and environments, describing how these interconnections change places and environments. (HASS)

Students examine how connecting to the environment can enhance health and wellbeing. (HPE)

Students predict the effect of human and environmental changes on interactions between organisms. (Science)

Students describe and predict the effect of environmental changes on individual living things. (Science)

Links to general capabilities

Literacy skills are developed by students presenting ideas and opinions, through sharing their learning back at school and within their wider community.

Critical and creative thinking is developed when students consider environmental issues and propose solutions.

Personal and social capability is developed through interacting with students from different schools, working in teams, and developing leadership skills.

Ethical understanding is developed by students engaging and discussing the ethical values of environmental issues such as climate change and sustainable living.

The YEL Program links extremely well to the cross-curriculum priority of sustainability.

The sessions help students to develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living.

Students focus on protecting environments and creating a more ecologically and socially just world through informed action.



Forums

There will be one Riverland YEL forum and one Murraylands YEL forum held each term. A registration link and location information will be emailed to all interested schools at least three weeks prior to each forum. Students and teachers will need to register for each forum via the Eventbrite link to secure your place(s).

Term 1: biodiversity

Riverland:

Biodiversity with a focus on regent parrots.

Wednesday 17 March (week 8)..

Kingston on Murray river front.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Register now:

<https://rlyelforumterm1.eventbrite.com.au>

Murraylands:

Biodiversity with a focus on habitat for purple spotted gudgeon.

Wednesday 24 March (week 9).

Jury Swamp, Mypolonga.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Register now:

<https://mlyelforumterm1.eventbrite.com.au>

Term 2: sustainable farming

Riverland:

Sustainable farming - TBA

Wednesday 9 June (week 7).

Location TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Murraylands:

Sustainable farming - TBA

Wednesday 16 June (week 8).

Location TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Term 2: pest plants and animals

Riverland:

Pest plants and animals TBA.

Wednesday 1 September (week 7).

Location TBA.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Murraylands:

Pest plants and animals TBA.

Wednesday 8 September (week 8).

Location TBA.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Term 4: water

Riverland:

Water - TBA.

Wednesday 3 November (week 4).

Location TBA.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Murraylands:

Water - TBA.

Wednesday 10 November (week 5).

Location TBA.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm.



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Requirements

It is not a requirement or expectation that schools attend all YEL forums, or that the same students come to each forum. The content and activity at each forum will be such that anyone who attends will learn and take away valuable knowledge and skills which can be shared and utilised at school.

This program can only be great and beneficial to the students with the cooperation of all involved. Here's what the Education team needs to make it work:

Students

Actively participate in activities and presentations during the forum(s).

Will be invited to share information at school based on the skills learnt.

Will have the opportunity to earn rewards (badges) for providing Education Officers with copies of or evidence of the way in which they have shared information at school.

Throughout the year, think about their connection with nature and what they can do to take action/make change and live more sustainably.

Bring packed morning tea and lunch to the forum (keeping in mind we would like to keep waste to a minimum).

Schools

Provide time/resourcing for teacher/SSO/mentor to attend YEL forums with students and support the sharing of information back at school.

Support students in YEL participation and to share the learnings and new leadership/public speaking skills at school via peer teaching/sharing or presentations.

Promote the excellent work of the YEL students throughout the school community.

Teachers/mentors

Register your interest to ensure you receive forum information (form at the back of this pack).

Select students to attend the forum(s). If you have a school environment group please consider rotating students. If you would like to bring more than 4 to a forum please let your Education Officer know but note that places may be limited depending on location.

Register the school and students via the Eventbrite link for each forum. The details and links will be sent to each school at least three weeks prior to each forum.

Ensure that each student has completed and returned a signed photo release form prior to attending forum(s).

Transport students and supervise them at the forum(s).

Provide support to the students at school so they are able to sharing what they have learnt.

Share resources, activities and information with fellow teachers at a staff meeting after the forum(s).

Bring a packed lunch to forums.



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Sharing at school

YEL students will be encouraged to share their knowledge and skills at school. Teaching peers what they have learnt is one of the ways the YEL program is so effective. Whether it be presenting to the school assembly or running an activity from YEL with a group of students. There are many ways to share, create the ripple effect and ensure the excitement and passion flows through the whole school community.

When students commit to sharing their knowledge at school, students will earn a reward for that effort. Once information or activities have been shared, students will need to return a 'report card' explaining what they have done in order to receive their reward(s). Copies of their work can also be shared with your Education Officer.

Opportunities to earn rewards for participation in activities during the forums will also be provided when possible.

News reward

Students are encouraged to write a newsletter article or update on what they have learnt and achieved at the YEL forum(s).

Once an article is complete or appears in the school newsletter or even the local paper, copies can be submitted to your Education Officer.



Presentation reward

Students will participate in activities which will assist to improve public speaking skills and identifying what makes a good presentation.

At school students are encouraged to make their very own presentation about the YEL forum topic and deliver it to their class or at assembly.



Kids teaching kids reward

Students will learn skills which will assist them in delivering an activity or lesson about the forum topic to their peers or younger students back at school.

Students are encouraged to teach their peers as well as younger students at school about what they have learnt or experienced.



Action reward

At the forums students will learn about how to take action back at school or home and will be given simple ideas, resources and tools to do just that.

Any efforts towards taking action for the environment at school or home will be rewarded.



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Sharing at school

This year, each time a student shares information back at school and provides the report card(s) they will receive a coloured bead that relates to the way they have shared or taken action.

All students will receive a YEL keyring/bag tag at the start of the year and their beads can be added to that keyring/bag tag along the way creating their own YEL sharing keepsake that reminds them of their experiences and how they shared them.



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Risk assessment

This is a general guide only. Excursion risk assessment and safety of students is the responsibility of the school and teachers/adults in attendance. This information is provided as a guide only for assistance with school risk assessment evaluation and can be included with any school excursion paper work/information and noted by all teachers/adults present at YEL Forums.

ACTIVITY	HAZARD	RISK ASSESSMENT LEVEL (1=VERY Unlikely, 5= Very LIKELY)	CONTROL MEASURE
YEL Forum at location outside any school grounds (eg. bush block, river etc)	Bushland – separation from group	3	Students aware of need to stay within view of the group and not wander off. First aid kits, mobile phones and water to be carried by adults/NRM Education Officer.
	Bites	3	Students to be warned of possibility of presence of snakes (warmer weather), ants, spiders, mosquitoes and other insects. First aid kit to be carried. Students to wear appropriate clothing for the outdoor activity.
	Barbed wire or electric fences	1	Students to be aware not to touch any fencing or cross any fence lines. First aid kit to be carried.
	Cross country walking – sprains	2	Students to be made aware of likelihood of uneven terrain, rabbit warrens etc. No running on site and to take care if moving through vegetation. First aid kit to be carried.
	Cross-country walking – tripping	3	Students to be made aware of possible tripping hazards at the site eg. Sticks, rocks and vegetation and care to be taken at all times. NO RUNNING.
	Extreme heat or cold	3	Students to be made aware of weather conditions on the forum day and they are to wear suitable clothing including hats and enclosed shoes. Activity will be postponed in extreme weather case including if it is raining on the day. Students/teachers to supply own refillable water bottles. **If fire danger rating for forum date is "Catastrophic" the forum will be cancelled and held on another day.
	Illness	2	Teacher/school to be aware prior to excursion of any illness/ medical conditions and appropriate medication to be carried either by student or teacher. Education Officer to be made aware of any medical conditions prior to forum. First aid and mobile phone carried at all times.
	Travel sickness/vehicle	3	Teacher/adult transporting student to be made aware of any issues prior to travel. Students to carry own medication if required on bus/in car.
	Working near water - drowning	2	Students will be made aware of any water hazards (eg. River, wetlands, creeks etc) located near the YEL forum site. Students will remain at least 2m from riverbank or water's edge at any time. No work will be undertaken IN water during YEL forum. All students will be supervised whilst near water.
	COVID-19 risk	3	All forums will have COVID-safe plan and in line with any current restrictions. Students will be encouraged to wash hands regularly, stay within their school groups and to ensure they are socially distancing from other school groups where possible. Hand sanitiser and wipes will be available for all activities and equipment used at YEL. If SA restrictions change prior to a YEL event, the event may need to be cancelled.



2021 YEL program Registration

Registering to be part of the YEL program ensures you will receive information about all future YEL forums. An event registration link, flyer and location information will be emailed to you at least three weeks prior to each forum. Teachers will need to register students for each forum via the Eventbrite link to secure a place and this provides us with our attendance list for the day.

Teachers will need to ensure each student and adult that attends a forum brings a signed photo consent form (see page 12-13). You can provide these now if you know who your YEL students will be.

Please fax this form to Cindy on 8582 4488 or scan and email to:
cindy.kakoschke@sa.gov.au

School:.....

Main Contact:.....
(to receive all correspondence regarding YEL)

Ph:..... Email:.....

Are you the teacher/mentor who will attend the forum(s) with the students? YES / NO

If not - then please include teacher/mentor name:

Ph:..... Email:.....

*A signed adult photo release form is essential for any adult in attendance and must be included along with submission of this form OR brought to the forum(s).

We will be bringing 4 students to each forum. We would like to bring MORE than 4 students.

YEL student names (if known or these can be provided when you register for the first forum). Attach a list of names if you have a larger group who will attend or rotate attendance at forums:

Student name & year level:

.....
.....
.....
.....

****Please note that you will still need to register the attending students via the Eventbrite link prior to each forum, this will ensure a place at the forum(s) and confirms our attendance lists.**



Children Consent Form

TALENT RELEASE FORM

For the use of images for promotional purposes

I: _____

(parent's/guardian's name - PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME)

of: _____

(address - PLEASE PRINT)

On behalf

of: _____

(child's name - PLEASE PRINT)

1. am the parent or guardian of the child named above;
2. consent to the use of my child's image and performance in video footage or photographs taken by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Water (the Minister) for the purposes of promotional activities or other purposes, (including print publications, websites and advertisements or other means of communication);
3. agree that copyright in any recording made or image taken by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board of my child, or any performance of my child, in connection with promotional activities is owned by the Minister and I further agree that any use by the Minister of my child's performance or my child's image is authorised for the purposes of the Copyright Act 1968, Privacy Act 1988 and any other applicable laws such as the Information Privacy Principles (SA);
4. acknowledge that my child's participation in promotional activities may be edited at the sole discretion of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board;
5. acknowledge that the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board is not obliged to include my child in the promotional activities;
6. release the Crown in right of South Australia from any claim by my child or anyone on my child's behalf for any cost, expense, loss or damage arising out of the use of video footage, photos, or other images of my child for promotional activities or other purposes, (including print publications, websites and advertisements or other means of communication);
7. acknowledge that there will be no payment or other consideration paid for the use of my child's image or my child's performance.

Signed: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____.



Government of South Australia
Murraylands and Riverland
Landscape Board



Adult Consent Form

TALENT RELEASE FORM

For the use of images for promotional purposes

I: _____

(PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME)

of: _____

(address - PLEASE PRINT)

1. am over the age of 18 (eighteen);
2. consent to the use of my image and performance in video footage or photographs taken by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Water (the Minister) for the purposes of promotional activities or other purposes, (including print publications, websites, social media and advertisements or other means of communication);
3. agree that copyright in any recording made or image taken by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board of me, or any performance of mine, in connection with promotional activities is owned by the Minister and I further agree that any use by the Minister of my performance or my image is authorised for the purposes of the Copyright Act 1968, Privacy Act 1988 and any other applicable laws such as the Information Privacy Principles (SA);
4. acknowledge that my participation in promotional activities may be edited at the sole discretion of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board;
5. acknowledge that the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board is not obliged to include me in the promotional activities;
6. release the Crown in right of South Australia from any claim by me or anyone on my behalf for any cost, expense, loss or damage arising out of the use of video footage, photos, or other images of myself for promotional activities or other purposes,(including print publications, websites and advertisements or other means of communication);
7. acknowledge that there will be no payment or other consideration paid for the use of my image or my performance.

Signed: _____

Date: ____/____/____.



Government of South Australia

Murraylands and Riverland
Landscape Board



Contacts



For more information about the Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) program or to talk to your local Education Officer:

Riverland:

Cindy Kakoschke
Education Officer
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
Ph 08 8580 1800
Email cindy.kakoschke@sa.gov.au

Murraylands:

Christina Liapis
Education Officer
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
Ph 08 8532 9100
Email christina.liapis@sa.gov.au

Visit the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board website:

<https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/home>

