

About SSEAYP

Bringing together more than 150 youths from Southeast Asia and Japan, the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP) provides youths with the unique opportunity to live together on board the Nippon Maru Ship for over 30 days. SSEAYP is an annual programme sponsored by the Japanese Government and supported by the member states of ASEAN. The National Youth Council (NYC), Singapore's national co-ordinating body for youth affairs, oversees the programme.

SSEAYP began in January 1974 after Joint Statements were issued between Japan and five ASEAN Member States- Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. They were joined by Brunei Darussalam in 1985, followed by Vietnam in 1996. Both Laos and Myanmar came on board in 1998, Cambodia in 2020, and Timor-Leste as the latest newcomer in 2024. Apart from broadening youths' international outlook, SSEAYP also fosters friendship and greater understanding among youths from Japan and Southeast Asia.

Key Highlights

Taking place from 15 January to 17 February 2026, the upcoming SSEAYP will visit two ASEAN Member States (Singapore & Thailand) and Japan. The journey promises participants with vibrant discussions on social & youth matters and eye-opening cultural exchanges. At each port of call, participants can look forward to interacting with the local youths, pay courtesy calls on dignitaries, visit local institutions and experience a unique home stay programme.

The Participating Youths (PYs) have undergone stringent selection and training in order to represent their respective countries as youth ambassadors on the programme. They are between 18 to 30 years old and bring with them different talents, personalities, and experiences.

The home stay programme in Singapore will be a unique experience for all PYs as they get to immerse in our local lifestyle and culture through the lens of each host family's everyday lives. A rewarding homestay creates opportunities for meaningful interaction and communication between the PYs and host family, where both parties get to learn more about each other and forge new friendships.

HOMESTAY PROGRAMME

Homestay Programme Period: 6 to 8 February 2026 (Friday to Sunday)

Hosting commitment: 3 Days and 2 Nights

Programme Overview

**Date and timings to be confirmed*

January 2026*	Briefing for Host Families
6 February 2026 (Fri) 12:30pm to 3:30pm*	Homestay Matching Ceremony Host families will be invited to a lunch reception and to meet with assigned Participating Youths.
6 February (Fri) 3.30pm to 8 February (Sun) 12pm	Homestay Programme
8 February 2026 (Sun) 12pm*	Return to Singapore Cruise Centre Host families may have the opportunity to participate in an Open Ship session or the Send-Off Ceremony. This will be subject to confirmation, in accordance with Singapore port regulations and capacity limits.

Programme Guidelines

A. Homestay Activities

- i. Hosts have the flexibility to curate activities for the youths that meaningfully showcases the Singaporean lifestyle and culture.
- ii. Hosts can consider activities that give a glimpse into daily life, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Routines: Grocery shopping, hawker dining, preparing meals at home, activities around the neighbourhood e.g. exercising, experiencing public transportation, visiting favourite hangout spots
 - b. Social: Meeting with relatives, friends, or colleagues
 - c. Singapore Spots: Visiting heritage areas e.g. Chinatown, Joo Chiat, Kampong Glam, Little India; touristic areas e.g. Marina Bay, Sentosa
- iii. Hosts may wish to discuss with the youths on what they might like to see or do, or find out what their interests and hobbies are, in order to plan a well-rounded and fruitful programme.

B. Homestay Expenses

- i. Hosts should budget for meals and transportation for the youths.
- ii. Should the youths request to visit specific places of interest or go specific activities for which Hosts are uncomfortable to bear the expenses, Hosts may clarify and reach an arrangement with the youths to pay for themselves.
- iii. Should any youth fall sick or sustain injuries during the homestay, Hosts are not expected to bear the medical expenses as the youths would be covered by their own insurance.

- iv. Youths are expected to pay for all other personal expenses, including but not limited to personal activities, souvenirs, international phone calls.

C. Homestay Honorarium

- i. Upon satisfactory completion of the Homestay Programme, NYC will provide Hosts an honorarium to help defray expenses borne for providing a homestay experience to the youths.
- ii. NYC and SIS reserve the right to terminate Hosts who fail to comply with the Terms of Reference and fulfil their duties from the Programme. The Terms of Reference are appended below for reference.
- iii. NYC and SIS reserve the right to cancel the programme, in whole or in part, if the circumstances make it necessary to do so.

Terms of Reference

Upon selection, Hosts will be required to accept the following terms of reference as a homestay family for the Participating Youths (PYs) of the 49th SSEAYP:

1. I acknowledge that the Committee has full discretion in matching PYs to homestay families and all other matters pertaining to the homestay programme.
2. I acknowledge that the actual placement of youths would depend on various factors (e.g. last-minute changes in the number of youth participants, specific matching requirements, etc) and I may eventually not be allocated youths to host.
3. I agree to accept the PYs allocated to my household and provide them with a homestay experience that fulfils the objectives of the programme.
4. I agree to accommodate the PYs in the place of residence declared in my application and acknowledge that housing PYs in alternative locations (e.g. hotels, hostels etc) is not permitted as it contradicts the objectives of the programme. I agree to ensure that the PYs do not sleep in the same room with someone of the opposite gender.
5. I agree to provide meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) for the PYs with consideration for their dietary restrictions, including but not limited to religious requirements and food allergies.
6. I agree to accompany the PYs at all times throughout the duration of the programme and ensure that they are not left unattended.
7. I agree to treat PYs equally, respect social norms and religious customs, and not discriminate against any PY on the basis of nationality, race, gender, or religion.
8. I agree to treat PYs respectfully and acknowledge that sexual harassment is a serious criminal offence, regardless of whether it occurs between individuals of the same or different sex, and may result in criminal prosecution.
9. I agree to maintain professional boundaries with all participants, be decently dressed during the homestay, and avoid any behaviour that could be perceived as inappropriate or compromising.
10. I agree to take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of the PYs throughout the duration of the programme.

11. I agree to bring PYs to places of interest in Singapore that align with the objectives of the programme and acknowledge that visits to political activities, religious activities contrary to the PYs' beliefs, and nightlife establishments (e.g. clubs) are strictly prohibited. I understand that the schedule of activities during homestay should not be tight as PYs may be fatigued from the ongoing programme.
12. I agree to follow all safety procedures, health protocols, emergency instructions, and contact the Committee immediately in the event of any accidents, emergencies, or situations requiring urgent attention involving the PYs under our care.

HOST FAMILY RECRUITMENT

Host Family Application Period: 18 July to 12 September 2025*

Successful applicants can expect to be notified via email by November 2025.
Selected Host Families are expected to attend a mandatory pre-programme briefing session in January 2026.
**Dates subject to change*

Host Family Eligibility Criteria:

- The applicant must be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- The applicant must be 21 years old and above as of 1 January 2026.
- The applicant must be able to host a minimum of two youths under satisfactory living conditions with basic amenities (i.e. proper beds and meals, access to bathroom and utilities, adequate ventilation and sanitation) during the homestay programme period from 6 to 8 February 2026.
- The applicant must be living with at least one other family member (i.e. parent, sibling, spouse, or child).
- The applicant must be conversant in English.
- The applicant should have an interest in cultural exchange and a willingness to engage with people from diverse backgrounds.
- The applicant should be willing to participate in pre-programme engagements and briefing sessions.