Youth Stewards for Nature

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Registration & Selection

1. Who can take part? Can I apply if I fall outside of the eligible age range?

YSN aims to engage youths aged 18 – 25 who have an interest in the project topics (Community Animal Management and Animal Health, Biodiversity and Wildlife, and Urban Greenery). If you fall outside the eligible age range, you may still apply as long as you are able to commit to the full duration of the programme and the compulsory milestones of your desired project. However, you should expect to work in teams with groupmates who are younger/older than you, with different backgrounds and commitments, including youths who are currently in Poly, ITE, JC, Uni, NS, taking a gap year, or working.

2. I am a student attending classes full-time, will I be able to fulfil the requirements of the programme?

If you have reservations about weekday requirements and any other commitments stated for the project(s) you're interested in, you may discuss your circumstances with your project mentors during the selection exercise and seek to understand the project better. To have a meaningful YSN experience, it is important that you can commit to the expected involvement required of the project you sign up for. (*See questions 5 and 6 for more information on the selection exercise*)

3. I have participated in YSN before, can I join again? Will my participation in previous iterations of YSN affect my chances at being selected for YSN again?

You are welcome to join YSN again and explore different projects offered each year! As projects have different requirements, all applications by new or returning YSN participants will be considered based on the changing project scopes.

4. How do I register? Can I sign up for more than one project?

Each project has its own registration form which can be found on the YSN website. Please note that sign-ups for projects will be closed once they have reached their maximum number of applications. Please read the descriptions and requirements of each project carefully in the Project Details deck (on YSN website) to ensure that you sign up for a project that meets your personal learning goals and desired commitment level. (*cont'd next page*)

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4. How do I register? Can I sign up for more than one project?

We do not recommend signing up for more than one project due to foreseeable challenges in commitment. If you sign up for more than one project and are shortlisted for each one, the YSN secretariat will evaluate your application with the different project mentors and offer you one project only that seems to match your interests, skillsets and commitment level best.

5. How will I be assigned projects?

To ensure youths have a meaningful and enriching YSN experience, project mentors will shortlist youths who have suitable experiences and/or motivations for the project to attend a selection exercise. The exercise aims to bring youths and project mentors together to learn more about one another's expectations of the project and check if they are aligned. Depending on project availability and on a case-by-case basis, you may be offered another YSN project if your selected project does not meet your expectations.

6. What is the selection exercise? Will everyone who attends the exercise be confirmed as a YSN participant?

The selection exercise will be conducted virtually in a group setting with 3-6 youth applicants of the same project. You would have been prompted to indicate your availability for a few selection exercise time slots in the registration from. You are required to attend one session only, lasting about one to two hours.

If your application is considered, you will receive an email from the YSN secretariat within 2 weeks from the date that registration is closed to confirm your time slot for the selection exercise. Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend the selection exercise, and only youths who are selected will be notified via email on their confirmed project allocation after the selection exercise.

It is mandatory for all shortlisted applicants to attend the selection exercise. In the event you are unable to attend the scheduled timing due to unforeseen circumstances, you may write in to YSN@nparks.gov.sg for assistance and we will evaluate your application on a case-by-case basis.

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7. What is the selection criteria and how can I prepare myself for the selection exercise?

The selection exercise is not a formal school or job interview! Treat it like a virtual hangout session with new friends and show up as yourself. Bring your curiosities and share your interests for participating in the project with the mentors and your peers (potentially your teammates).
The project mentors and YSN secretariat will address any questions that you have on project scope and commitment. Matching your learning needs and interests to the project you sign up for is the most important principle guiding our selection of participants. Besides commitment and motivations, we are looking for youths who can work well independently, as well as within a team alongside youths from different backgrounds.

8. I am not confident of my skills required for some projects. Will I be able to take part?

Although some skills are an advantage or pre-requisite to have in certain projects, if you show that you have a good attitude and the drive to learn independently on the go, our project mentors will support you in your learning – and you have a community of youths in your cohort to learn and grow alongside! Discuss with your project mentors during the virtual chat to address any concerns you have about your participation in a project.

9. I have joined GFF/BFF/other NParks programmes before, will I have an advantage in my application for YSN?

While your participation in these programmes might have built your skills and knowledge to take on some YSN projects with greater confidence, selection will take place objectively based on each applicant's suitability and interest shown for their registered projects.

10. How many youths take part in YSN each year?

The numbers vary each year based on the number and type of projects scoped in each iteration, but we engage around 100 youths in each cohort. As a Youth Steward, you will have opportunities to gather as a cohort at milestone events of YSN (Opening Event, Learning Orientation, Closing Event), to exchange experiences and grow the community.

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Programme Format & Schedule

11. Do all projects involve groupwork or are there projects I can undertake individually too?

All projects will engage youths in teams typically up to 10 pax. The reason for groups of this size allows different members to be engaged in the project and cover one another at different phases, should individuals encounter commitment challenges at any point (i.e. different exam periods, unforeseen personal circumstances). Some projects have a greater maximum intake capacity, such as those involving organising committees with multiple workstreams, where even smaller teams of youths will work together for specific topics/functions.

12. Will I have to achieve all the stated deliverables in the project briefs?

The deliverables for each project are subject to discussion with your project mentors and groupmates. The Project Details deck (on YSN website) would have indicated the expected flexibility that you have in adjusting the nature and/or timeline for different deliverables proposed. Rest assured that you will not be fulfilling all project deliverables on your own, but coordinating different aspects with your teammates based on your personal interests and strengths! Your mentors will also support you and guide you along.

13. What will the workload and busier periods be like?

Each YSN project has its own unique project timeline and required commitment levels. You may refer to the Project Details deck (on YSN website) for further information on each project. As a cohort however, all participants are expected to attend the YSN Opening (Feb/Mar) and Closing events (Sep/Oct) which take place on a weekend in the respective months.

The month after the Opening event (Feb/Mar) is likely to be a phase that requires you to be more actively involved in discussions with your team and project mentors to carve out roles in the team and establish processes for working together for the months ahead. Likewise, in the lead up to the Closing event (Sep/Oct), more commitment might be required of some (if not all) members in your team, to prepare for your project's sharing at the Closing event.

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Programme Format & Schedule
14. Do I have to attend all milestone events in the programme timeline (on YSN website)? Yes, all successfully registered participants of YSN are expected to attend the programme's key milestone events (Selection Exercise, YSN Opening, Learning Orientation, Mid-point Check-in and YSN Closing events). The format of these events have been revamped since YSN 2025. You can expect a lot more fun and bonding as a cohort with youths from other projects! Please note that your participation in these milestone events will affect your mentors' and peers' evaluation of your commitment in YSN.
15. What are YSN Bite-sized Workshops? How do I sign up? On top of the programme's key milestone events, youths can opt to join two skill-based workshops in YSN 2027 on conflict and stakeholder management, as well as facilitation and communication. These free workshops are conducted by external trainers and aim to build essential soft skills that are crucial for project/personal development – both within and beyond YSN. While attendance is optional and not compulsory, youths are strongly encouraged to sign up for at least one of the workshops for a more holistic learning experience, or both to equip themselves with the complementary skillsets offered. The YSN secretariat will share the registration link once the workshops are open for registration during the programme. As slots for each workshop are limited, interested youths are encouraged to apply early to secure a place.
16. How is a partnership project different from a regular YSN project? Partnership projects are scoped collaboratively by NParks staff with external stakeholders from community, industry or agency partners. You will be supported by partner mentors from external stakeholders in your project's development, and exposed to different perspectives and insights on the role of partnerships in our City in Nature vision. Partnership projects share the same programme milestones as all other YSN projects.

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Challenges During the Programme
17. Can I change my project mid-way during the programme? Once the selection exercise is completed and finalised, you are required to remain in your project throughout the programme. It is important for project teams to follow through to facilitate learning, accountability and project development. Should you face any challenges during the course, you are encouraged to raise them to your project mentors as early as possible so that they can support you in addressing them. If you would prefer to speak to someone else besides your project mentors, you may also contact the YSN secretariat at YSN@nparks.gov.sg or via Telegram (contact details will be shared with you during the YSN Opening event).
18. Can I request for a change in mentor? Project mentors are fixed. If you encounter any challenges with your project mentor, you may contact the YSN secretariat for further assistance.
19. Can I withdraw from the programme at any time? We encourage you to evaluate your options and commitment levels carefully when registering for YSN, to prevent drop-outs during the programme which will cause disruption to your teammates. However, if there are unforeseen circumstances that hinder you from continuing, you should speak with your project mentor and contact the YSN secretariat at YSN@nparks.gov.sg.

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Post-Programme Opportunities

20. What happens after I complete YSN?

At the end of the YSN programme, you will be awarded a YSN certificate and T-shirt at the YSN Closing event. This is however subject to your participation and commitment throughout the project duration, evaluated by your project mentors and groupmates.

You may seek testimonials from your project mentors and explore further development pathways with NParks in other volunteer programmes like Community in Nature (CIN) Biodiversity Watches and the Nature Kakis Network. You can also speak with your project mentors or the YSN secretariat if you are interested to pursue an internship with NParks.

21. If I am not successful in my application for YSN this year, may I apply again next year?

Yes! Registration for YSN opens in the last quarter of each year after the YSN Closing Event (Sep/Oct), you may keep a lookout for updates on our social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, Telegram). You are more than welcome to apply for subsequent years if the different projects offered meet your personal learning goals and capacities.

22. Are there leadership opportunities in subsequent years after I complete YSN?

This is dependent on the needs of the specific projects. Staff mentors will decide the best structure to organise youth participants for their projects. For some projects, participants who are more experienced and have a proven track record in YSN may be identified to play a team lead role.

23. How can I stay connected after completing the YSN programme?

Upon completing the programme, you will be invited to join the YSN Alumni Telegram group to stay connected with the wider YSN community and keep up with alumni events. You may also indicate your interest in supporting different elements of future YSN iterations, and the YSN secretariat will be in touch when suitable opportunities arise.

For any further questions, you may email us at YSN@nparks.gov.sg