

River Murray Youth Council

2023 River Murray Youth Council **Information** and application pack

Everything you need to know about the River Murray Youth Council (RMYC).

Apply to be part of a group of like-minded young people who are keen to make a difference and learn more about caring for and conserving our local landscapes.

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2023 RMYC information pack

Welcome

Celebrating it's 20th anniversary in 2023, the River Murray Youth Council (RMYC) provides an unrivalled opportunity for young people in the region to develop their interest in the environment, connect with their peers and explore their leadership potential.

Open to students from years 7-12, RMYC uses real-world experiences to develop skills including:

- ecosystem and environmental monitoring
- field work
- problem solving
- working as a team
- critical thinking
- collaboration with other high school students
- public speaking
- volunteering
- leadership
- career pathways.

You will play a part in managing the landscapes, take action on environmental issues and have your say about how we can protect the landscape now and into the future.

RMYC members gain the opportunity to work with experts from a range of fields, with projects and activities designed to meet the specific interests of group members.

Through the Self Direct Community Learning program, RMYC members in years 11 and 12 are also eligible for SACE recognition. See page 7 for more information.



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Questions



How much does it cost?

There is no cost involved with RMYC activities and events. This program is supported by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board through funding from the landscape levies.

What do I bring to an event or activity?

Your enthusiasm, love for the environment and your youth voice! You will need to bring along a packed lunch, water bottle and snacks for events and in some cases you can bring spending money to RMYC events/activities.

What do I wear?

Enclosed shoes are a must for all activities. Please make sure you wear a shirt with sleeves/collar. Long pants (cargo or work pants) are preferred, some activities will require that all attendees wear long pants to be able to participate.

RMYC uniform including t-shirt, hoodie and hat will be provided for each member upon acceptance of application.

Will the Education team provide transport to events and activities?

Students will need to arrange transport to and from RMYC Monday meetings. Meetings will be held in a central location.

Education team staff will provide transport to and from other events/activities where possible and may include travel on buses or in fleet vehicles.

What is expected of me?

Attendance:

The Education team understands it can be hard to attend all RMYC activities and events during the school year. Please use the registration form to indicate what you're interested in and what you can commit to.

What is expected of me?

Communication:

RMYC members are required to respond to event invitations, emails and other forms of communication in a timely manner. We encourage members to actively participate, ask questions, speak up and share ideas however big or small.

In 2023 RMYC will have a 3 strike policy, and members who do not respond to communication attempts will forfeit their place in the group.

Members may have the opportunity to re-apply the following year.

Behaviour:

As an RMYC member you are expected to behave responsibly and respectfully towards staff, mentors, other members and any community members you may be in contact with.

You are expected to wear your RMYC uniform to events and activities to show that you are part of, and representing a connected group.

Feedback:

You will be asked to provide information or feedback on RMYC events and activities.

We ask that members provide constructive feedback so that the Education team can use this to improve future activities.

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Overview

Riverland and Murraylands group:

RMYC operates 2 regional groups allowing students from both the Murraylands and Riverland to participate in the program.

This also allows content to be tailored to suit regional interests, and reduces the amount of travelling involved.

Both groups are coordinated by Education Officer Ilyth Burton, in conjunction with other staff and mentors. The 2 groups operate independently throughout the year, but come together for joint activity days held each term during the school holidays.

Student-led topics:

Each year, RMYC members are invited to provide input regarding the topics, events and activities for their group to participate in. This allows groups to work as a team, share ideas and ultimately explore the topics in line with the group's interests. This input process occurs as part of the information sessions in March, and the planning day in April.

Information sessions:

Information sessions for anyone interested in RMYC will be held in March and allow students (and parents) to find out more about RMYC, 2023 activities, meet fellow students and ask questions.

- Riverland - Monday 6 March - Lake Bonney, Barmera.
- Murraylands - Monday 20 March - Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge.

Applications:

Applications to join RMYC will need to be submitted to Ilyth Burton by COB Friday 24 March 2023.

Successful applicants will be notified by email by Tuesday 28 March 2023 and invited to attend the joint planning day in April.

Riverland group members will also have a meeting prior to the planning day.

Planning day:

A joint planning event will be held on Thursday 27 April where all members will participate in team building and leadership activities.

Students will also discuss their interests and work towards developing the topics to be explored during the year. Final details will be sent out to 2023 members before the event.

Monday Meetings:

RMYC members come together for a monthly meeting, held after school on a Monday (one Riverland and one Murraylands).

This allows the group to keep in touch, find out about upcoming events and hear from guest speakers.

Meetings will be held in a central location and transport to and from the meetings is to be arranged by students/parents.

Work experience:

If you're thinking about a career working with the environment or sustainable agriculture, RMYC coordinators may be able to help connect you with work experience opportunities.

Members in years 11 and 12 are able to apply for SACE credits for work experience completed through Self-Directed Community Learning.

Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) forums:

In addition to RMYC events and activities, RMYC members are also invited to Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) forums throughout the year. Participants gain the opportunity to learn outdoors and assist in running the day's activities.

Projects/activities:

Once learning themes and topics are determined at the planning day, the Education team plans the events and activities for the rest of the year in line with the goals set by members.

Key dates

RMYC members are invited to participate in a full-day event during the school term, and a joint activity held in the school holidays. Times and locations may change but RMYC members will be notified by email.

Additional opportunities may arise throughout the year, and these will also be communicated to RMYC members.

Term 1

Info Sessions for interested students (and parents) to learn more about RMYC and what is involved:

Riverland: **Monday 6 March.**
Lake Bonney, Barmera.

Murraylands: **Monday 20 March.**
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge.

Murraylands RMYC Applications due:
By COB Wednesday 19 April 2023.

Successful RMYC members notified:
By COB Friday 21 April 2023.

Monday Meetings:
Riverland: **Monday 17 April.**

Joint Planning Day:
Thursday 27 April. Karoonda. 10am-2pm.

Term 2

Monday Meetings:
Murraylands: **Monday 8 May.**
Riverland: **Monday 5 June.**
Murraylands: **Monday 3 July.**

YEL Forums:
Murraylands:
Thursday 22 June.
Riverland:
Wednesday 28 June.

Joint Activity Day:
Thursday 20 July.

Term 3

Monday Meetings:
Riverland: **Monday 14 August.**
Murraylands: **Monday 6 November.**

YEL Forums:
Murraylands:
Wednesday 14 September.
Riverland:
Thursday 20 September.

Joint Activity Day:
Thursday 12 October.

Riverland Field Days:
Friday 15 and Saturday 16 September.

Term 4

Monday Meetings:
Riverland: **Monday 23 October.**
Murraylands: **Monday 25 September.**

YEL Forums:
Murraylands: **Thursday 23 November.**
Riverland: **Wednesday 29 November.**

End of Year Camp:
Members celebrate the end of the year with an overnight camp. Please note these dates now! More info on the camp will be advised later in the year.
Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 December.

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SACE credit

RMYC members qualify for SACE credits in year 11 or 12 through Self-directed Community Learning:

- Taking a leadership role in community Landcare or conservation groups.

How to apply for SACE credits:

Speak with your SACE Coordinator who will help you submit an application form. [Form 11](#) is available on the SACE Board website on the self-directed programs page.

Once your application has been received by the school, your SACE coordinator or another teacher will organise an interview with you.

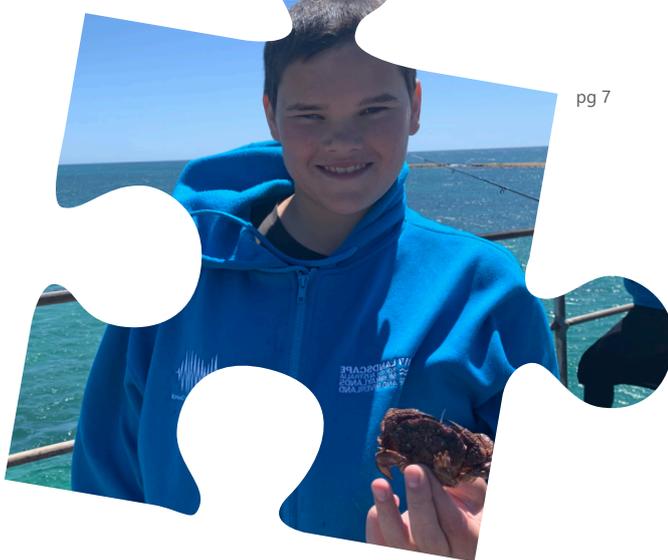
At the interview, you'll need to provide evidence that addresses the nature, scope, and level of complexity of your learning. [The Stage 1 performance checklist](#) is used to guide the evidence of learning in relation to SACE requirements.

You will need to showcase the knowledge and skills you've gained by being part of RMYC including any work experience you undertake.

You can provide evidence in a variety of ways, for example, written work, letter of support from your Education officer or others you are partnering with, PowerPoint presentations, photographs, video clips, community awards and certificates.

Important things to think about when providing evidence:

- setting goals
- priorities
- critical thinking – review and reflect
- leadership
- knowledge and application.



If Stage 2 credit is being sought please ask your SACE Coordinator to contact the SACE Board by the end of week 1 term 4 at the latest.

Process for Stage 1 Self-directed Community Learning Recognition:

Students and SACE coordinators need to discuss applying for recognition by the end of November. The student then completes a form 11 and submits it to the teacher.

Once the interview has been arranged, students are helped to prepare for the interview by their teacher.

After the interview, the assessor's recommendations are lodged with the SACE Board via Schools Online.

Self-directed SACE credits do not contribute towards an ATAR at stage 2. If stage 2 credits are being sought, other subject choices may be more suitable - i.e. integrated learning.

For more information and assistance please contact the SACE coordinator at your school.

Member application

To apply to the 2023 RMYC program, you are required to complete this application form.

Completing your application:

Take your time to answer the questions and provide as much detail as possible. This is your chance to put your best foot forward and show us why you should be selected for RMYC.

If writing isn't your strongest form of communication, call or schedule a meeting with Ilyth to discuss alternative formats.

The member application form allows you to express your interest and provides parent or caregiver permission to be involved in the group. It provides us with your contact information and ensures that you are covered under our volunteer insurance policy should you be successful.

Submitting your application:

All application forms to be returned to Ilyth Burton by COB Wednesday 19 April 2023.

Applications are reviewed by staff from the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and all applicants will be notified of the outcome.

Successful applicants will be notified by COB Friday 21 April 2023 and invited to attend the joint planning day on Thursday 27 April.

ilyth.burton@sa.gov.au
PO Box 1374 Berri SA, 5343.



2023 RMYC member application form

Applicant details

Name: _____

School: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Year Level: _____

Contact details: All communication for RMYC is via email to both members and parent email addresses. Members are encouraged to use their own school or personal email account.

Email address: _____

Postal address: _____

Mobile no: _____

Acknowledgement and signature

I acknowledge that as a member of the River Murray Youth Council I will be expected to act in a responsible and respectful manner at all times. I will always do my best to represent the group and my fellow members well and I will contribute to meetings and events to the best of my ability.

I understand and acknowledge the 3 strike policy and will strive to respond to all communications.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

2023 RMYC member application form

Medical information

Do you have any health/medical issues that may affect your participation in any events or activities?

YES

NO

If yes, please provide information including any medication: _____

How serious is the condition(s) if aggravated?

Can be self-managed

Could require medical treatment

What actions, situations or triggers need to be avoided? _____

Tell us about yourself

Why is the environment important to you? _____

2023 RMYC member application form

What is something you'd like to achieve as part of the RMYC? It could be a personal goal, or an environmental goal.

Have you been involved with other environmental groups or opportunities that have allowed you to develop leadership skills? Tell us about these experiences.

List 3 words that best describe you.

What is something you are very passionate about?

Do you have any specific environmental topics or interests that you would like to explore as part of RMYC this year?

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: ____ / ____ / ____.

2023 RMYC member application form

Parent/guardian details and permission

Name: _____

Mobile number: _____

Email address: _____

(please provide best contact email address to receive details about upcoming RMYC events).

Please tick to acknowledge the following should your child be successful:

- I/we give permission for our child to be part of the River Murray Youth Council group for 2023 and understand they will participate in hands-on projects and activities including (but not limited to): Tree planting/watering, rubbish clean up and tree guard removal, monitoring and surveys of water quality, birds, frogs and other ecological parameters, water activities (i.e. kayaking), weed removal/control and general maintenance work.
- I/we understand and give permission for our child to participate in RMYC events/activities during school holidays and during school time if/when that may occur throughout the year.
- I/we understand that students may use simple tools during their work including (but not limited to): hammer, shovel, crowbar, screw driver, electric drill, rake/hoe and that they will be shown how to use required tools and supervised when doing so.
- I/we give permission for external media outlets (journalists/reporters and photographers) to take photos of and speak to our child at RMYC events and activities to assist with promoting RMYC and the students' work. We have also signed the attached photo consent form for promotion and social media purposes.
- I/we understand that we may sometimes be required to arrange transport to and from RMYC meetings and in some cases to and from RMYC events and activities unless otherwise provided or arranged with Education program staff.
- I/we understand and acknowledge the 3 strike policy as outlined on page 4.

Parent/guardian signature(s):

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

Contacts



For more information about the River Murray Youth Council program:

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Email ilyth.burton@sa.gov.au

Visit the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:
landscape.sa.gov.au/mr