

14 February 2017

The President 956/9455
Rotary Club of Scarborough
PO Box 701
Scarborough WA 6922

Dear President,

Information about National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) 2018 – www.nysf.edu.au

In 2018, there will be up to 600 places available at the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF). Attending NYSF is a unique opportunity for young Australian science students who are in year 11 in 2017 to participate in Australia's leading science and technology outreach activity during their summer break. In the January before entering year 12, the participants will experience 12 days of science and technology related activities, designed to encourage them to continue to study in these fields, and move on to careers that are so important in underpinning the Australian economy. You can read more about NYSF 2017 activities at <http://outlook.nysf.edu.au>

Dates, venues and places

In 2018, two sessions will run consecutively at The Australian National University in Canberra, providing 400 places. One session will run at The University of Queensland, providing up to 200 places. Places in these programs will be allocated irrespective of a student's home state. You can read more here - <http://outlook.nysf.edu.au/national-youth-science-forum-nysf-signs-university-queensland-january-2018/>.

Dates for the three sessions are:

Session A – Canberra – Tuesday 2 – Saturday 13 January 2018

Session B – Brisbane – Tuesday 9 – Saturday 20 January 2018

Session C – Canberra – Tuesday 16 – Saturday 27 January 2018

Funding assistance

NYSF has launched an Equity Scholarship Fund to provide up to forty (40) scholarships per year, valued at \$1000 each, for participants in the NYSF 2018, 2019 and 2020 programs. The Scholarship is not paid directly to the successful applicants, but is awarded as a reduction in the NYSF Year 12 Program Fee payable by Rotary clubs. Rotary Districts are urged to seek and encourage applications from students who may have previously been discouraged from applying due to the program fee, to benefit from this fund.

An additional source of funding assistance is now available through a new Australian Government program designed to support students attending activities such as the NYSF. Further information is available here - <https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/inspiring-australia-science-engagement/student-sponsorship>. Please note that the guidelines on levels of funding available through this program are subject to review, and funding is not available to individuals – only organisations. I encourage your team to read the information carefully before applying so that you understand what is available and the process. Please direct any questions about this funding to the relevant government department as noted on their information. Applications to both the NYSF Equity Scholarship Fund and the Australian Government program are permissible. Contact nysf@nysf.edu.au for the

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information sheet about the NYSF Equity Scholarship Fund.

Application process

Students are required to submit an Expression of Interest through the NYSF website – www.nysf.edu.au. There is a \$60 application fee associated with applying, which covers the administrative cost of the NYSF selection process. This is not refundable. Students must submit their printed EOI to your club by 31 May 2017. Your club is required to email details about the student/s being endorsed to the NYSF Rotary District Chair for your Rotary District by 30 June 2017. Please submit ALL worthy applicants to your NYSF Rotary District selections – there is no limit on the number of applicants that clubs can endorse. Similarly, your club does not have to endorse any applicants if there are none appropriate this year. (Please note, the Rotary Selection Process form is no longer required.) Details of the NYSF District Chair who is your contact is - Allan McLean.

Program fee

The program fee for students selected for NYSF 2018 is \$3,097. **Responsibility for advising incoming students what, if any, level of funding the club can provide for the student rests with your Rotary club.** This should be discussed with the student during their interview, so that all parties (including parents) are aware of any financial obligations that may be incurred for taking part in the program. I encourage your club's representatives to clearly communicate this to the student and their family as early as possible in the application and selection process that your club operates. You may like to provide an information sheet that covers this issue. Any financial or fund-raising assistance your club can provide to successful applicants will be very well received by them – see above information on Fee Assistance.

Once the final Rotary district selections are made, the NYSF will send an invoice to each endorsing Rotary club, seeking payment for their successful student/s and it is the club's responsibility to pay the invoice to the NYSF - **even if your club is unable to provide financial support for the student/s.** If more than one applicant from your club is selected for the NYSF, your District may be able to transfer applicants to other clubs - please discuss this option with your NYSF District Chair.

We again urge you to advise the NYSF of your club's email address as we are moving to corresponding with Rotary clubs electronically. To continue receiving information from the NYSF you will need to advise us of an appropriate email address. If you do not have one already, we strongly encourage you to establish an email account that can be passed on to subsequent office bearers using a free account such as Gmail, eg, PresidentRotaryClubXXX@gmail.com (do not provide personal email account details). Please email these details to nysf@nysf.edu.au. We will always be willing to send hard copies of brochures as handouts for schools. All invoices will also be sent electronically to these email addresses.

The NYSF gratefully acknowledges and values Rotary's generous support and promotion in local communities. You may like to know that over the past four years, 43% of NYSF participants have come from remote and regional parts of Australia, no doubt directly related to the unique relationship that the NYSF holds with Rotary clubs across the country. We look forward to welcoming students from your area in 2018 – particularly with the exciting news of an additional 200 places. In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the NYSF office on 02 6125 2777 or nysf@nysf.edu.au

Yours sincerely,
Dr Damien Pearce
Chief Executive Officer



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