

National Youth Science Forum, 2019-2020

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a Rotary-founded program designed to support Year-11 students interested in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), to attend a two-week intensive summer science school in either Canberra or Brisbane. Students apply to attend the program in Year-11, with the schools held in January at the beginning of their Year-12. For details see www.nysf.edu.au.

To be accepted into the program, the students must be endorsed by a Rotary Club.

The purpose of this document is to introduce the NYSF application process to the Rotary Clubs in District 9670, and how Clubs are involved:

Step 1. The student applies online through the NYSF web site, answers eligibility questions, provides personal details, and answers some personal questions.

Step 2. The student identifies the Rotary District of residence, and a list of the nearest Rotary Clubs, via information on the NYSF web site

Step 3. The student approaches a Rotary Club about endorsement (and possible sponsorship), usually by email or through the Club web site.

Step 4. The Club decides whether to meet the student for an initial interview. If not, the Club recommends an alternate Club, or asks the student to contact the NYSF Chair (Howard Bridgman, habrotary@gmail.com, 0425281387) for assistance.

Step 5. If yes, one person in the Club should be the main contact for the student. This could be the Youth Officer.

Step 6. Arrange a face-to-face interview with the student, as soon as possible after initial student contact. The student should bring his/her Year-10 academic record, any other support/activity information, and an Endorsement Form for the Club to sign. Students must be currently enrolled in at least one Science/Engineering subject (i.e. Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences/Geology) and at least 2-unit Advanced Mathematics

Step 7. The interview should be informal and explore student science interests (see example questions, next page), other interests, some family information and so forth. An interview time of about 15 minutes is recommended. Finances should be discussed with the student and parent.

Step 8. If the Club decides to endorse the student, sign the endorsement form (the student will upload this into their online application), and notify the NYSF District Chair (Howard Bridgman, habrotary@gmail.com, 0425281387) as soon as possible. The student is eligible for a District interview.

Our District quota for NYSF is 22 students. Aside from academic qualifications, the biggest challenge is cost. The program costs \$3150 per student. Endorsing Rotary Clubs may choose to provide some or all of this cost in sponsorship. Students in need can also apply for NYSF Equity Scholarships (\$1,000). This year, students will be asked if they can provide the entire cost themselves. If so, Rotary Club endorsement is still required.

Howard Bridgman

NYSF Chair, District 9670

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Sample Interview Questions

- A. What excites you about science (or engineering or maths), and why?
- B. Provide an example of a science experiment at school and describe what you learned from it.
- C. Why do you think science (or engineering or maths) is important to the future of Australia (and the student's personal future)?