



## What is this guide for?

This guide is intended to support Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) participants and leaders to take part in Young Reporters Scotland (YRS). It outlines the links between the DofE and YRS.

## What is Young Reporters Scotland?

Young Reporters Scotland provides exciting opportunities for young people to build life-changing skills and be part of an international group of young people creatively raising awareness of sustainability issues within their communities. YRS is part of the international Young Reporters for the Environment programme which is in operation in over 25 countries.

We know young people in Scotland really care about sustainability issues and environmental problems and are involved with all sorts of projects and activities. Through YRS we want to showcase youth enthusiasm to people throughout Scotland by sharing stories of their activities and experiences. YRS also has an element of competition. Entrants who meet the elective criteria are celebrated at an annual award ceremony.

## Why use YRS in DofE?

Taking part in YRS is a great way to build skills, record learning and tell other people about activities undertaken as part of a DofE Award. As completing a report for YRS can take time, planning and research, YRS fits best with the Skills and Expedition sections of the DofE, however, it can also be used to work towards the Volunteering section.

## What do young reporters have to do?

To take part in YRS, young people across Scotland, who are **aged 11-21**, are asked to use their creativity to produce a report about a sustainability issue or environmental problem. This report could be in the form of a written article or blog, a video or animation, or a topic captured through photography. Reports must be sent to YRS so that they can be shared nationally.

We also ask young people in Scotland to share stories about great events they have been to or that have inspired them, groups they know of in their local communities that are tackling environmental problems or projects and activities they are involved with. Specific **examples of articles** produced in Scotland can be found [here](#) with international examples from around the world [here](#). Young people can take part individually or in groups.

To take part group leaders must register via [www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/yrs](http://www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/yrs). Leaders can submit on behalf of individuals and groups. Support is available through the Keep Scotland Beautiful community development team on 01786 471333.



## YRS as a skill

YRS is a great activity for developing a range of skills including creative arts, science, media and communications or even fashion.

At Bronze level, YRS could be the entire activity as time is spent researching, planning, reporting on an issue and sharing it with a target audience. Activities could include creating a video; beginning with creating a storyboard, writing a script then filming and editing work.

At Silver and Gold level, reports could be produced on a series of topics, in different media, or YRS could be part of wider learning. For example, if participants are taking a course in journalism or creative media, learning could be exemplified through YRS.

## YRS as volunteering

For the volunteering section, YRS could be used to raise awareness of activities young people are involved in which link to environmental problems or sustainability issues. This could range from spreading the word about conservation projects, to local community growing projects, cycling projects, or work to improve the environmental quality of neighbourhoods.

Young people could also take action to involve other young people in the work they do through creative media. YRS can also help to raise awareness of the environmental issues a young person has experienced as a volunteer. This could include their knowledge of biodiversity and its important role in our environment, or awareness of the processes behind the food we consume such as production, processing, packaging and transport.



## YRS as an expedition aim

YRS could form part of, or be a means to, record the expedition aim, depending on the interests of the group. Groups interested in, for example, recording wildlife or investigating the human impact on wild places could plan and produce a video as part of their aim and share this through YRS. Any media produced could be used as part of the post-expedition presentation.



## Resources

The YRS website hosts a range of useful resources for participants including:

- Ideas on a range of themes including biodiversity, climate change, coastlines, transport, food and many others.
- Links to resources to support submissions using film and animation.
- Videos and stories from young people across Scotland.
- Advice for young people from experts in the fields of media and communications.
- Links to young reporters work from countries around the world.

**Register to take part in YRS at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/yrs](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/yrs)**



## Ideas and inspiration to help your Skills section

- Create a video about the life-cycle of your clothes, tracing where the raw materials have come from, where they have been made and what happens to them once you have finished with them.
- Use your camera to capture the importance of green spaces within your community.
- Create an animation about where the food contained in one of your recipes has come from.
- Design an eco-fashion show to raise awareness of sustainable fashion – create a video about your event.



- Write a weekly blog capturing an environmental problem or sustainability issue you feel passionate about.
- Do some research on climate change and report on the impact it has in Scotland.
- Write an article on ethical food choices - you could begin by showing your group some examples of logos and exploring their meaning. You could include the Rain Forest Alliance logo, Palm Oil Free or Fairtrade and more.
- Report on environmental crimes within your community such as wildlife crime, fly-tipping or littering. Staying safe is of paramount importance when undertaking any activity and advice pertaining to this can be found [here](#).



## Including YRS as part of your expedition

- Report on the impact of hillwalkers on the hillside paths you explore - you could look at topics such as erosion of paths and littering.
- Take part in a Clean Up during your expedition and keep a video/photographic diary.
- Create your own video or photo-series which promotes the saying 'take only photographs, leave only footprints'.
- Report on any evidence of pollution in water and any evidence of it's impact on wildlife.
- Research coastal erosion and document any evidence you discover on your expedition.
- Monitor and record what wildlife your spot on your expedition and report on the biodiversity you find.



## Volunteer

- Get involved with a local conservation project and report on the importance of your work.
- Use your creativity to raise awareness of the environmental issues your volunteering has helped you learn about.
- Organise a Clean Up of a local green space or beach and get as many people involved as possible - write about it for your local paper. Visit [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/cus](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/cus) for more information and support.



## Share your reports with Young Reporters Scotland at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/yrs](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/yrs)

If you need help to think of a topic, the Keep Scotland Beautiful community development team can help.

Call us on 01786 471333 or visit [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/yrs](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/yrs)

