



The Lions Youth of the Year Program

2020 - 2021



“You just can’t lose”

Schedule of Events

Club, Zone and Region Finals

Contact your Club Chairperson for these details.

District Finals should be completed by 28th March, 2021

(Easter is the following weekend)

State Finals must be completed by Saturday, 17th April, 2021

— The National Final —

Will held at our Australian Lions Convention in Canberra. Monday, 10th May, 2021

District and State Final information will be on the Lions YotY website as details come to hand.

The program experience

It's the people you meet that make the Australian Youth of the Year program the unique and inspiring journey that it is. (Emma Wiggins; Victoria, 2015).

Without a doubt, Lions Youth of the Year is the most engaging and personally developing experiences that I have had in my life. (Patrick Cross, National Winner, 2015).

The Lions Youth of the Year Program

2020 — 2021

Introduction

- The Lions Youth of the Year Program is now in its' 6th decade of providing Australian Senior School students a forum to gain experience and confidence in presenting themselves to a selection panel and an audience.
- The program is managed and supported by Lions Australia and run by Lions Clubs in each of our 19 Districts in close collaboration with, and supported by, participating Schools.
- It looks for students who are contributors to their schools and their communities and, ultimately, selects an outstanding individual to be an ambassador and travel overseas under the auspice of Lions Clubs International.

Aims of the Program

The Lions Youth of the Year Program is designed to foster, encourage and develop leadership qualities of our youth, in conjunction with other citizenship qualities, at the age when they are about to enter the fields of higher education or employment.

It provides the youth of Australia with the incentive to pay greater attention to the general qualities that are so vital in their development as first class citizens.

The qualities sought, apart from academic attainments, are those of:

leadership - personality - sportsmanship - public speaking - good citizenship.

The importance of public speaking is recognised at all levels with a specific award to the candidate judged to be the best speaker.

Who can enter?

Entry is open to all Australian youth who, on the **1st July, 2020**, is

- a citizen of Australia, PNG or Norfolk Island, or
- a person having the right to reside in Australia for a period of not less than two years and six months from that date – and who will continue to reside in Australia not less than that period.
- **and will be over the age of 15 and under the age of 19 years as of 30th of June, 2021- the year of the National Final in Canberra, ACT.**
- who are attending, or have attended, a high school or other secondary school or equivalent in the Lions year in which the National Final is to be conducted. This includes current university students who entered in the calendar year prior as secondary students.

Interested?

Contact your local Lions Club or the District Chairman for information and entry forms.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why would I want to enter the Youth of the Year?

Youth of the Year provides tremendous benefits for Youth by providing them with:

- opportunities to develop self confidence,
- experience in public speaking,
- experience at being interviewed (as for a job) in a non-threatening environment,
- opportunities to meet and interact with other like minded students,
- worthwhile additions to their CVs
- attractive rewards at club and State level.
- no expenses at club level. Each State winner's travel, hospitality and meals are fully covered for attendance at the National Final at the Lions Multiple District Convention.

People who have entered find that they are better equipped to deal with interview situations, because they are more confident of their ability and have learned how to handle stress. Consequently, they perform better, enhancing their chances of getting that elusive job, scholarship or admission to the course they are after.

How can I enter?

- From your school (principal or year co-ordinator).
- The nearest Lions Club.
- By contacting the District Chairperson/State Coordinator/National Chairman
- The website; www.lionsclubs.org.au/yoty provides extensive details about the YOTY Program.

Contestants are assessed on:

| | | | |
|---|-----------|------------------------|------------|
| Initiatives taken at school | 15 | Public Speaking | Points |
| Activities & Involvement Outside School | 20 | Impromptu Questions | 10 |
| School Academic Achievements | 10 | Prepared Speech | 15 |
| General Knowledge | 15 | Diction | 5 |
| Presentation during the interview | 10 | | 30 |
| Points Allocated: | 70 | TOTAL: | 100 |

Unlike some other competitions, Youth of the Year does not favour any one group such as academics, the sports oriented or the good public speakers. All-round ability is what we are looking for. People who are lacking in one area can pick up points in another. Because Lions Australia run the Program, we do look for an attitude that demonstrates a community - mindedness and an interest in what is going on in the world around you, hence the weighting is towards leadership, sporting and cultural awareness, personality and general knowledge.

How is the judging done?

There are two stages to the judging process.

The first stage is a private judging, where the contestant meets, in private, with the judges. At this stage, the judges are looking to confirm information in your application form. They may ask some questions to determine your level of general knowledge, and to assess your attitude and philosophies on life. It is at the private judging that most 70, of 100 of your points are scored.

The second stage is the public judging. In this section, you are required to respond to two impromptu questions on topics chosen for you and one five-minute prepared speech on a topic of your choice. This stage is open to the public (including your friends and supporters).

How many levels of competition are there?

The following are the levels of competition, with winners at each level having the opportunity to compete at the next level:

- Club - Region - District - State - National

There could be more than one winner at each level. For example, depending on how many Regional finals there are, there could be two progressing from a Regional final to a District final. Three contestants from the District Final may progress to the State Final. The winner of the State Final will progress to the National Final.

Can PowerPoint presentation, overheads, tape recorders or any other type of electrical or non-electrical aid be permitted to be used during the Public Speaking section?

NO electrical aids like, overheads, tape recorders or PowerPoint presentations are permitted to be used during the presentation. The Public Speaking section is just that, and the only electrical device accepted is the microphone. In addition, no non-electrical props or aids are permitted.

I am not good at public speaking.

You don't have to be good at public speaking to do well in Youth of the Year, although it does help. Remember that public speaking accounts for only 30 of the total points.

Just think of it this way; for the prepared speech, you only need to speak for five minutes on your favourite topic, whatever that may be. This could score you 15 points.

Most people are scared of public speaking, including adults! There is nothing wrong, therefore, in candidates finding impromptus daunting. There are two impromptus, of two minutes each, with each being worth 5 points. If you do badly, you can expect to score at least 2 points and even if you do well, you are unlikely to score more than 4, so there is probably a 2-point difference between a good impromptu and a bad one.

Even if you perform badly on both impromptus, you are only likely to lose, say 4 points, out of 100! Now, that is not so scary, is it? One thing that we can almost guarantee - your public speaking skills will improve through your participation in Youth of the Year.

The Application Form appears to be too difficult to complete!

Yes! The entry forms are intimidating, if they are viewed in totality. The trick is to break it down into individual sections. Our advice is to take each section one at a time, to think about anything that you have done relating to that section of the form and fill it in. Just think that the classifications are useful for inclusion in a CV when you are applying for jobs. Thus, by filling in the entry form you are building the base for an impressive CV!

Where is my nearest Lions Club?

Lions Clubs are easy to find.

One way to find your nearest club is to keep your eyes open when you walk down the street. You will often find a Lions Emblem on a post or display board telling you when and where the next Lions Club meeting is.

All Lions Clubs in Australia are listed on the [Contact Us](http://lionsclubs.org.au/contact/) (<http://lionsclubs.org.au/contact/>) page of the Lions Australia website. You may also try your local council, where it could be listed under Community Service Clubs.

Do I need to know anything about Lions?

No! You do not need to know anything about the Lions to enter, but you will learn quite a bit about them in your journey through the Program.

You will find out, for example, that Lions have a strong commitment to Youth and that Lions want to help our Youth become better citizens of the future.

You will learn that Lions are warm, friendly people who are willing to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate.

You will meet many people you will be pleased to have met - and if you learn something about the Lions - well, that is a real bonus!

What sort of prizes can I win?

The recommended prizes at Club Finals are, apart from certificates and keepsake memorabilia, cash and/or vouchers to the value of \$50 for the overall winner and the same for the Public Speaker winner to the value of \$25.

Lions Clubs International of Australia and Papua New Guinea will award all national finalists, including the national winner, a trip to the Lions International Youth Camp at Rotorua in New Zealand followed by a trip to the National Winner's home state, a total of 16 days' duration over the summer holidays. Each State Winner will also receive \$500.

The national winner receives \$5,000 on their 18th birthday.

The national public speaking winner receives \$2,500 on their birthday.

Note: Should the Public Speaking Winner also be the Overall Winner, then only the one prize of \$5,000 will be awarded.

A word from our Sponsor.

Since 1997, the NAB has been proud to be the principal sponsor of the Lions Youth of the Year program.

We believe the investment we make in these outstanding young Australians today ultimately benefits us all as many go on to become community leaders of the future.

We commend Lions Australia on their commitment to Australian youth and encourage school teachers and community leaders to support the program and recommend participation to high school students across the country.

For more information or advice, please contact

National Program Coordinator for MD 201

Ken Bradford; ph- 0428 961 069 or email- yoty@lions.org.au
or the State Coordinator of your State.

Details are on the website at

<https://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/yoty/contacts-dates/>