

What is Young Reporters for the Environment?

Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) is a network of international youth engaged in Education for Sustainable Development. It is coordinated by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and presently operates in over 30 countries.

The goal of YRE is for post-primary school students (aged 11-21) to investigate environmental issues and problems and report on them through written, photographic or video journalism, while investigating solutions.

The Objectives of YRE are to Investigate, Propose Solutions, and Report:

1. **Investigate** a local environmental problem or issue.
2. **Propose solutions** to a local environmental problem or issue.
3. **Report** on a local environmental issue and its possible solution through a journalistic production targeting a local audience.

Guidelines for Schools.

The Rules and Judging Criteria:

Read the Rules Criteria and the Judging Criteria for the competition carefully to ensure that your entry is not disqualified due to not meeting the essential criteria.

Deadline:

Ensure that the entry is submitted before the deadline of **1st April 2016**.

Accuracy:

Be accurate. Research any facts you include and make sure they are correct. Any inaccurate facts will weaken the entry.

Creativity:

Be creative.

- For video submission, use video clips, charts, animation, storytelling, music, images or anything else that can go on a video and that supports or strengthens your message or view of the issue. Be careful not to use any copyrighted material (music, images, video) names,

Logos or images of any person, company, organisation, or public agency without their permission.

- For written essay articles ensure that quotes are included from relevant sources which will give some weight to the argument as well as make it more interesting to read.
- For photographic entries, ensure that the photograph is has been well taken, think of lighting, effects and surroundings to ensure that the image looks its best and taken in a creative way will give a better chance of success in the competition.

Young Reporters for the Environment Competition Information

- An international YRE competition is held each year in which winning national entries compete.
- Participation requirements and registration: Any Student aged between 11 and 21 can participate in the competition as long as their school, college or group is registered.
- There are three age categories in the international competition: 11-14, 15-18 and 19-21.
- Eco-Schools staff will register winning schools on the YRE website – there is no need for schools to do this step themselves.
- Students may submit more than one type of submission and can work individually or in groups. Environmental themes that students may consider studying include climate change, biodiversity, water, litter, etc. The winning article, photograph or photographic essay and video from each age category can be submitted to the international competition by National Operators.

Deadlines and Criteria

Deadline Information

The deadline for entries is **1st April 2015**.

Entry Criteria

Please note that not meeting the international competition's *acceptance criteria* results in disqualification.

Submissions must include:

1. The name of the author(s);
2. Their age on the day of submission to the national competition

3. The name of their registered school or group;
4. Their country of residence and registration, which may differ
5. They must also, at minimum:
 - be the correct length, size and format, etc; see Articles, Photographs and Video below
 - be submitted in written or spoken English, or have English subtitles in the case of video
 - be focused on a pertinent (real and current) local issue
 - present a potential solution
 - have been disseminated to a local audience

Articles

Articles must not exceed 1,000 words in length and may include illustrations and photographs. The source of all non-original illustrations must be given. A title of not more than 140 characters is recommended, for compatibility with Twitter. Articles must be sent digitally in Microsoft Word or .pdf format with accompanying pictures following the photographic guidelines below.

Photographs

It is possible to submit either a single photograph, or a photographic series/essay of up to 12 photographs. Photographic entries must be accompanied by a title (preferably of no more than 140 characters) and a short caption of no more than 150 words to explain the link with environmental sustainability and/or a solution to the problem and/or issue. Photographs must be submitted digitally as .jpg, .png, .tif, or .gif format, ideally converted into high-quality .pdf, with a resolution of not less than 150-300 dp.

Videos

Videos must be no more than 3 minutes long and in documentary or reporter/interview style. A video must be accompanied by a title (preferably of no more than 140 characters). The format must be compatible with YouTube, i.e.:

- **WebM files** - Vp8 video codec and Vorbis Audio codecs
- **.MPEG4, 3GPP and MOV files** - Typically supporting h264, mpeg4 video codecs, and AAC audio codec
- **.AVI** - Many cameras output this format - typically the video codec is MJPEG and audio is PCM
- **.MPEGPS** - Typically supporting MPEG2 video codec and MP2 audio
- **.WMV**
- **.FLV** - Adobe-FLV1 video codec, MP3 audio

All submissions must be accompanied by a note describing dissemination to a local audience (where it was published, exhibited, shown, broadcast). National Operators will forward the winning article, photograph or photographic essay of up to 12 photographs, or video for each age category to the international competition. Students may submit more than one type of submission and can work individually or in groups.

Registering gives FEE the right to promote and use submissions crediting the author. Necessary permissions, e.g. for photographing children are the responsibility of the author and must, therefore, be sought.

Judging Criteria

Additional non-compulsory criteria to guide participants and judges.

Judges may assign a score of 0-3 based on how well the submission meets five further criteria. Points are: 3; excellent; 2; well; fairly well and 0; it does not. Participants are encouraged to meet as many of these additional criteria as possible, to improve their work and chances of winning. It is not, however, compulsory to meet these criteria:

1. Composition i.e. form, structure and quality

- Is the submission well-structured and in the case of articles and videos cover who, what, where, why, when, and how?
- Does the article or video have a beginning, middle and end?
- In the case of photographs and video, is the picture/video technically and artistically well done i.e. is it well composed, of high quality and impactful?

2. Fair, balanced and objective reporting

- Is the piece (article or video) balanced and fair in terms of representing different sides of an argument prior to offering a potential solution?
- Does it quote and use real, credible, sources?
- Is scientific or statistical reporting accurate and supported by sources/footnotes?
- Is the photograph or video a fair representation, i.e. the subject or audience has not been manipulated?

3. Informative and well researched

- Does the submission cover relevant historical, economic, social and/or political implications and possible consequences?
- Does it make a link to the bigger global picture?
- Does it present possible solutions?
- Is the suggested solution realistic, well explained and justified?
- Is the use of illustration, pictures, supporting paragraphs, subtitles, etc, well thought through?

4. Originality, style and independence

- Is the piece original in its scope or style i.e. has the participant picked a challenging topic or created an innovative or moving piece?
- Did the participant leave the school grounds i.e. engage in field work and interview people in person as well as on the telephone, not just use or quote online sources?
- Did they take a positive approach i.e. concentrate on solutions not just problems?

5. Dissemination

- Was a good choice of media chosen for communicating the message and was the target audience considered? Is there evidence of further dissemination through relevant social or other media, or an event?