

## 1. Background

The ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards (hereinafter referred to as "YEA") are organised by ECO-UNESCO, a non-profit organisation committed to promoting environmental sustainability and youth empowerment. These Terms and Conditions govern participation in YEA.

## 2. Eligibility

2.1 Participants must be aged between 10 and 18 years. ECO-UNESCO may allow younger or older participants at its discretion. Requests for age exceptions should be submitted by a mentor via email to [yea@ecounesco.ie](mailto:yea@ecounesco.ie).

2.2 Each team must consist of a minimum of two and a maximum of twenty-five young people. ECO-UNESCO reserves the right to permit larger groups at its discretion. To include more, mentors must request approval from ECO-UNESCO.

2.3 YEA is open to young people in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

2.4 Participants are eligible to re-enter projects to the YEA under the Further Growth Award, showcasing the evolution of their project.

## 3. Young People's Permission & Consent to Register

3.1 As parental/guardian permission is required for those under 18 years of age, it is the responsibility of the mentor/teacher to confirm this is in place when registering for YEA, submitting materials for YEA, and attending YEA-related events. Young people should also be informed of what has been consented for on their behalf.

3.2 For participants who are 18 years or older, it is the responsibility of the mentor/teacher to confirm participant permission is in place when registering for YEA, submitting materials for YEA, and attending YEA-related events.

3.3 In giving permission as a mentor throughout YEA, mentors confirm permission on behalf of participants and/or parents/guardians.

## 4. Registration

4.1 All groups wishing to participate in the YEA must register by midnight on the date advertised on [yea.ie](http://yea.ie). Entry deadlines may be extended at the sole discretion of ECO-UNESCO.

4.2 The Project Mentor(s) on the registration form will be the main point of contact with ECO-UNESCO throughout the YEA process.

4.3 Several groups may enter from the same school/organisation with one project per group. Projects must be youth-led, environmentally focused and action-based.

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4.4 Groups must register to the relevant age category (Junior, Senior or Super Junior). Age guidelines are available online, and groups should fall into the age category of their oldest member.

4.5 ECO-UNESCO reserves the right to reassign a group into a category deemed more suitable by the organisation. ECO-UNESCO reserves the right not to award a category at their discretion.

4.6 ECO-UNESCO must be contacted if any of the registration details change.

4.7 The teacher/principal/mentor is responsible for participants throughout the programme. ECO-UNESCO is not liable for any costs, damages, or injuries related to the programme.

4.8 If a project is withdrawn or cannot be completed, mentors/participants must email [yea@ecounesco.ie](mailto:yea@ecounesco.ie) as soon as possible. The YEA team will advise on next steps and any future participation options.

4.9 ECO-UNESCO may use the contact details provided by mentors and participants to administer the YEA programme, to communicate about the current programme and to contact them about future YEA programmes and related activities. Such data will be retained and used for up to seven years in line with ECO-UNESCO data protection policy (see section 12 for more information).

### 5. Submission & Project Details

5.1 Submission forms for the YEA must be fully completed and submitted along with additional specified documentation online by the submission deadline advertised. Submission deadlines may be extended at the sole discretion of ECO-UNESCO.

5.2 Participants must ensure that all permissions, licenses and consents are obtained for any third-party materials included in their projects.

5.3 Project submissions will be judged internally at this stage of the competition and shortlisted for the regional ECO-Dens. Submission of a project does not guarantee an invitation to a regional ECO-Den.

5.4 Submitted material must be the intellectual property of the entrant. ECO-UNESCO is not liable for plagiarism.

5.5 ECO-UNESCO supports the submission of original work that reflects each participant's own ideas, creativity and learning. While AI tools may be used to support activities such as brainstorming or spelling and grammar, participants are strongly encouraged not to use AI to generate the text, images, audio or video included in their submission.

5.6 Projects may be published by groups to raise awareness. Groups can promote their projects, referencing the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards.

5.7 By submitting personal information (including but not limited to names, ages, photos and videos) to ECO-UNESCO as part of an entry into YEA, consent is given for ECO-UNESCO to

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store and process that information for the purposes of assessing the project and for the running of YEA.

5.8 The use of photographs, videos, quotations or information submitted as part of an entry for promotional or communications purposes is subject to the appropriate media consent. For participants under 18, parental or guardian consent will be obtained separately.

### 6. ECO-Dens

6.1 Groups who wish to proceed to the Showcase and Awards Ceremony must present their projects at regional ECO-Dens (Semi-Finals) to ensure a consistent judging process.

6.2 A maximum of 6 young people can present at a regional ECO-Den held in person. Teachers or mentors may only be present during the presentation at ECO-UNESCO's discretion. Larger group presentations must be pre-approved by ECO-UNESCO.

6.3 By attending ECO-Dens, mentors consent that all members of the YEA group have given their permission to attend, or that parental/guardian permission has been obtained if participants are under 18 years.

6.4 Groups may bring additional materials (props, presentations, 3D pieces, etc.) to the regional ECO-Dens. They are responsible for removing these items afterward.

6.5 ECO-UNESCO are not responsible for any loss/damage of property at the ECO-Dens or for any charges incurred for travel, including clamping.

6.6 By attending ECO-Dens, mentors authorise ECO-UNESCO to undertake appropriate first aid assistance in case of injury, accident or medical emergency. ECO-UNESCO is not liable for any medical expenses incurred.

6.7 Photography, video and audio recordings may be captured during ECO-Dens for promotional, educational and communications purposes. Where required, ECO-UNESCO will obtain the appropriate media consent from participants and/or their parent or guardian before using images, recordings or personal information for these purposes. Participants may choose not to be photographed or filmed during the event and may withdraw their consent at any time by informing an ECO-UNESCO staff member or contacting ECO-UNESCO.

### 7. Judging Criteria

7.1 Projects will be judged based on the 6-Steps to Success judging criteria, as outlined on [yea.ie](http://yea.ie)

7.2 Groups agree that the organisers of YEA are entitled to judge all entries and select those they consider to be the winner in a given category. Entries will be judged internally, then by a panel of judges at the regional ECO-Dens and again by an internal or external examiner. The decision of the YEA organisers is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

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7.3 The decision of the judging panel is final and binding.

7.4 All entrants must adhere to the competition rules. Failure to do so will invalidate the entry. ECO-UNESCO's decision is final.

### **8. Showcase & Final Awards Ceremony**

8.1 Projects are selected for the Showcase and Awards Ceremony based on submissions and ECO-Den presentations. Not all groups will proceed to the Showcase and Awards Ceremony.

8.2 Groups must send at least two members and one mentor to the Showcase. Contact the YEA Team at least 2 weeks in advance if there are any issues.

8.3 Limitations to group size may be in place, depending on venue capacity. Groups will be communicated of this in advance.

8.4 Groups where possible must attend the entire day of the Showcase and Awards Ceremony. Late arrivals need ECO-UNESCO approval at least 2 weeks in advance.

8.5 Shortlisted groups will receive event details such as any venue-specific rules and may need to provide additional information to the YEA team. Notify ECO-UNESCO of specific needs at least 2 weeks in advance.

8.6 By attending the Showcase, mentors consent that all members of the YEA group have given their permission to attend, or that parental/guardian permission has been obtained if participants are under 18 years.

8.7 For physical events, groups must transport and display their projects safely, providing their own materials and refreshments. All items must be removed on the day unless otherwise arranged.

8.8 All project displays must be safe and where possible use sustainable resources. Ensure that displays do not pose safety risks and minimise environmental impact.

8.9 ECO-UNESCO are not responsible for any loss/damage of property at the Showcase or for any charges incurred for travel, including clamping.

8.10 By attending the Showcase, mentors authorise ECO-UNESCO to undertake appropriate first aid assistance in case of injury, accident or medical emergency. ECO-UNESCO is not liable for any medical expenses incurred.

8.11 Photography, video and audio recordings may be captured during the Showcase for promotional, educational and communications purposes. Where required, ECO-UNESCO will obtain the appropriate media consent from participants and/or their parent or guardian before using images, recordings or personal information for these purposes. Participants may choose not to be photographed or filmed during the event and may withdraw their consent at any time by informing an ECO-UNESCO staff member or contacting ECO-UNESCO.

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8.12 ECO-UNESCO may eliminate or combine categories based on entry numbers and quality. Not all categories may receive awards.

8.13 Awards are non-transferable, non-negotiable, and cannot be exchanged for cash.

8.14 Winners may promote their award by referencing the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards, including the category and year.

### 9. Intellectual Property

9.1 Participants retain the intellectual property rights to their submissions.

9.2 By entering YEA, participants grant ECO-UNESCO a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, and distribute their submissions for promotional and educational purposes.

### 10. Limitation of Liability

10.1 ECO-UNESCO is not responsible for any technical failures or issues that may prevent or hinder the submission of entries.

10.2 ECO-UNESCO is not liable for any loss, damage, injury or disappointment incurred by participants, including disappointment arising from non-selection or unforeseen changes in the competition.

### 11. Disqualification

11.1 ECO-UNESCO reserves the right to disqualify any participant or team found to be in violation of these Terms and Conditions. The decision of ECO-UNESCO is final.

11.2 Disqualification may occur at any stage of the competition.

### 12. Data Protection

12.1 ECO-UNESCO processes personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and applicable data protection legislation. Personal data collected as part of YEA will only be used for the purposes described in these Terms & Conditions and any associated consent forms.

12.2 Further information on how ECO-UNESCO collects, uses, stores and protects personal data, including your rights under data protection law, is available in our [Data Protection Policy](#).

### 13. General Provisions

13.1 ECO-UNESCO reserves the right to modify these Terms and Conditions at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes.

13.2 These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Ireland.



**By entering the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards, participants acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.**

**The Young Environmentalist Awards and all its Intellectual Property remain the sole copyright of ECO-UNESCO. All material herein copyright © ECO-UNESCO 2026/2027.**



The Young Environmentalist Awards are managed and delivered by ECO-UNESCO, Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation.

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