

Lions
youth
of the year



District Manual

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Lions Youth of the Year Program

District Manual

Issued for the information and guidance of
Lions, Lioness, Leos Clubs and Club Branches within Multiple District 201

Introduction

This manual is the contribution of the Multiple District Youth of the Year Committee to the better understanding and conduct of the Program with the aim of maximising participation by Clubs.

The potential of the Program as an aid in fostering and developing the leadership qualities of the youth of today is unlimited and all Clubs are urged to participate in the Program.

The Program is to be known as "The Lions Youth of the Year Program".

Aims

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.

The Lions Youth of the Year Program provides the youth of Multiple District 201 with the incentive to pay greater attention to the general qualities that are so vital in developing them into first class citizens. The qualities sought, apart from academic attainments, are those of leadership, personality, sportsmanship, public speaking and 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.

CHILD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

The Multiple District 201 Youth Policy requires that members working with children or in youth related projects, possess a Working With Children Clearance. In some jurisdictions this may be the Working With Vulnerable People Clearance.

**District Chairpersons should also refer to the
Club and Zone/Region manuals.**

Chapter 1 Roles of District Chairpersons

District Chairpersons will:

- 1.1 Become familiar with the Rules and requirements to conduct the Program as set out in this Manual.
- 1.2 Arrange, plan and conduct training for all Club Chairpersons.
- 1.3 Attend training for District Chairpersons.
- 1.4 Set goals for District participation levels in conjunction with the District Governor and State Chairperson.
- 1.5 Encourage all Clubs to actively pursue media recognition.
- 1.6 Collate list of Club Chairpersons, addresses, contact phone numbers, etc.
- 1.7 Distribute Program entry forms to Clubs as soon as possible after it is delivered from the Printer, or encourage clubs to download items as required.
- 1.8 Advise Clubs on:
 - (a) Amount of Program entry fees, if applicable, and to whom payable.
 - (b) Dates for completion of Club judging at each level. Co-ordinate with Zone and Region Chairpersons and State Chairperson. Prizes to be awarded at each level.
 - (c) Region Chairpersons and State Chairperson. Prizes to be awarded at each level.
- 1.9 Supervise District Finals.
 - (a) Communicate all details of District Judging to:
 - (i) Contestants,
 - (ii) Contestants sponsoring Clubs,
 - (iii) Region Chairpersons,
 - (iv) Host Club Chairperson, Zone Chairpersons,
 - (v) State Chairperson and
 - (vi) District Governor
 - (b) Organise judging (see Chapter 4).
 - (c) Appoint Host Club, considering :
 - (i) Convenience of location.
 - (ii) Club programs permitting timing for maximum convenience of contestants and judges. A two day event may be desirable (see Chapter 5).
 - (iii) Invite the media to attend.
- 1.10 Collate and forward statistics as required by the State Chairperson.
- 1.11 Supervise travel of District winner to State Final.
- 1.12 Forward District contribution for the cost of the State Final.

Chapter 2 Rules of the Program

2.1 Levels and Timing of the Program

The winners of each of the following levels of judging proceed to the next level (ref Chapter 3.5). The dates of the various levels of the Program are determined by the State Chairperson, but are to be guided as follows:

Club Level	1 week before the Zone Final.
Zone Level	1 week before the Region Final.
Region Final	2 weeks before the District Final.
District Final	2 weeks before the State Final.
State Final	3 weeks before the MD Convention.
National Final	during the MD Convention.

2.2 Participation and Eligibility

2.2.1 Each Lions Club, Club Branch, Lioness Club or Leo Club may accept or decline participation in the Program.

2.2.2 Participating Clubs must conduct a Club Final in accordance with the format laid down in this Manual. (ref Chapter 5)

2.2.3 Entry is open to all Australian youth:

“Australian youth means a young person who satisfies the requirements set out in the next following sub-clause and who, at the beginning of the Program year (July 1) is:

- (i) a citizen of Australia, PNG or Norfolk Island or
- (ii) a person having the right to reside in Australia for a period of not less than two years and six months (2½ years) from that date – and who will continue to reside in Australia not less than that period (this is to ensure that the winner is available for all travel related prizes awarded at the National Final) and
- (iii) is over the age of 15 as at 30th of June of the year of the National Final and is also under the age of 19 years as at the 30th June in the year of the National Final.

The Program will be open to Youths who are attending or have attended a high school or other secondary school or equivalent standard of school in any other educational establishment, including TAFE colleges and schools of isolated and distance education, 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. (those students who have attended secondary school and have therefore completed their secondary schooling in the July – December period are eligible to participate).

Entrants cannot compete at more than one Club level judging in any Program year.

2.2.4 A student who has been a State Winner in the Program is not eligible to re-enter the Program.

2.3 Rules for Entrants

All Entrants are required to:

- 2.3.1 Comply with the eligibility requirements. (ref Chapter 2.2.3).
- 2.3.2 Complete the Entry Form accurately and to the best of his/her ability.
- 2.3.3 Maintain an appropriate standard of dress; wear school uniform if available.
- 2.3.4 Accept the decisions of Judges as final.
- 2.3.5 Be available to participate in all levels of the Program on the dates as set down (ref Chapter 2.1) and at locations advised by the Chairperson of each level of the Program.
- 2.3.6 State winners only are required to:
 - Report travel problems and irregularities directly to Program Chairperson
 - Submit a travel summary to the responsible Program Chairperson upon your return.
 - Assist Program Chairperson with subsequent year's Program.

2.4 Conduct of the Program

- 2.4.1 The Club must conduct the Program in accordance with the requirements set out in this Manual.
- 2.4.2 The Entry Form and Interview shall comprise 80 points and the Public Speaking section 30 points. The breakdown of points must follow the format set out in the "Guide to Judges" document.
The allocation of points to each section of the Program cannot be changed.
- 2.4.3 The Program consists of 3 stages:
 - (a) Entry Form
 - The Entry Form is to be filled out by the Contestant (ref Chapter 2.3.2) and signed by the School Principal and Club President.
 - Include information from previous 2 years only.
 - List in "dot point" format for ease of reading by Judges.
 - All information supplied is to be on the Entry Form, no attachments are to be accepted.
 - Verbal updates may be provided to the judging panel during the interview
 - (b) Interview
 - The Interview is to be 30 – 40 minutes in duration and is to follow the format set out in the "Guide to Judges" document, with a panel of independent Judges. There will be 4 general knowledge Questions asked of each candidate during the interview.
 - (c) Public Speaking function
 - Consists of 2 impromptu speeches (2 minutes each) and an original speech, prepared by the Contestant on a topic of his/her choice (5 minutes' duration).
 - The Public Speaking function takes place before an audience of Lions, family and friends and may be at a regular Club Dinner Meeting, or at a special meeting for this project.
 - The order of appearance of Contestants must be determined by a random ballot draw.

2.4.4 Mandatory public function judging procedure:

The conduct and format of the program is the responsibility of the club, however the two (2) impromptu questions MUST be scheduled prior to the prepared speeches at all levels of the Program.

To ensure compliance with State Child Protection laws, Contestants MUST be accompanied by 2 adults; 1 male and 1 female are to be present.

Prior to the commencement of the impromptu question, all contestants (except the first speaker) are to retire to a suitable soundproof room. As each Contestant completes their turn with the impromptu questions, they are to resume their place in the room/auditorium.

No contestant is to leave the room after they have completed their impromptu questions.

All contestants remain in the room/auditorium for all prepared speeches.

2.4.4.1 Two Minute Impromptu Questions

- (a) Impromptu questions must avoid questions asked at earlier levels or subjects related to the topics or content of the contestants' prepared speeches.
- (b) The Panel Chairperson or Program Chairperson reads the question once.
- (c) A typewritten (or printed) in large type version of the question is placed before the Contestant.
- (d) The question is read a second time. The printed version remains in place, in front of the contestant.
- (e) **Timing commences on the utterance of the last word of the question.**
- (f) Timekeeper rings a clearly audible **double bell** on the lapse of 2 minutes. A penalty is incurred if the Contestant proceeds beyond the completion of the current sentence after the elapse of 2 minutes. The penalty will be 0.25 of a point.
- (g) **There is no warning bell during the impromptu questions.**
- (h) Each Contestant, in order of the draw, will be introduced and asked the same TWO questions in the same manner and order.

2.4.4.2 Prepared Speeches

- (a) To be an original speech on a topic selected by the Contestant (ref Chapter 3.4.8)
- (b) **Timing commences on the utterance of the first word of the prepared speech.**
- (c) Timekeeper rings a clearly audible single bell on the lapse of 4 minutes. A penalty is incurred if the Contestant does not proceed beyond 4½ minutes of elapsed time. The penalty will be 0.25 of a point.
- (d) Timekeeper rings a clearly audible double bell on the lapse of 5 minutes. A penalty is incurred if the Contestant proceeds beyond the completion of the current sentence after the elapse of 5 minutes. The penalty will be 0.5 of a point for each 15 seconds' period, or part of a 15 seconds' period, that the contestant continues to speak. (8 seconds over incurs a 0.5 point penalty; 16 seconds over incurs a 1.0 point penalty).

- (e) A microphone is the only aid permitted (lapel or roving microphones are acceptable, but only if they are available at the venue used). No other aids are permitted including (but not limited to) electronic devices, electronic presentations, charts, props, music, musical instruments, photos, charts etc.

2.4.5 The Chairperson of the Judging Panel is the only person to make the announcement of the winners at the conclusion of the Public Speaking function. The announcements are to be carried out in the following order:

- (a) Public Speaking winner.
- (b) Overall winner.

There will be only one Youth of the Year winner and one Public Speaking winner; however one person may win both sections.

There are to be no draws in either section at any level of the Program.

2.4.6 In general, only one winner proceeds to the next level, however specific conditions apply at Zone and some District levels. (ref Chapter 3.5 for details).

2.4.7 In the event of a Club having only one (1) entrant, that entrant shall proceed to the next level of the Program. It is suggested, however, that to gain experience, one of the following alternatives MAY be considered:

- the Club may invite the Contestant to deliver his/her Prepared Speech at a Dinner Meeting of the Club;
- the entrant MAY participate in the Final of another Club as a "Guest Entrant", subject to the agreement of the other Lions Club. The entrant would NOT be scored by the judges or be eligible to win either the Public Speaking or Overall sections of that Club.

2.4.8 To enable a contestant to update the claims that s/he recorded on the initial Entry Form, a contestant may submit an updated Entry Form at any stage of the program, up to and including the State Final. Revised Entry Forms must be endorsed by the contestant's school and sponsoring Lions Club. The revised Entry Form must be submitted to the relevant YOTY Chairperson at least seven days prior to the conduct of that Youth of the Year final.

2.5 Fees and costs

2.5.1 The Youth of the Year Program is self-funding and there are no funds allocated through Multiple District budgets for this project. Sponsorship may be raised at any level, but the major sponsor must always be recognized as such at every level (refer Chapter 7.4)

2.5.2 Club level

All clubs must allow for costs through the annual budgeting process. It is the club's responsibility to determine the costs and these may include, but not necessarily limited to:

- (a) hire of venue
- (b) meals for judges and contestants
- (c) prizes and presentations (ref Chapter 7.2)
- (d) District fee as determined by the District Cabinet.
- (e) Other costs as determined by the Club

2.5.3 Zone/Region level.

Costs are to be borne by the Clubs of the Zone or Region.

A fee or levy may be determined and apportioned to clubs as determined by the District Cabinet or delegated officers.

The costs may include (but not necessarily limited to):

- (a) hire of venue

- (b) meals for judges and contestants
- (c) prizes and presentations (ref Chapter 7.2)
- (d) Other costs as determined by the District Cabinet

2.5.4 District level.

A levy or entry fee may be charged to all clubs within the District (or only the participating clubs) as determined by the District Cabinet. These costs may include (but not necessarily limited to):

- (a) hire of venue
- (b) meals for judges and contestants
- (c) prizes and presentations (ref Chapter 7.2)
- (d) Multiple District fee as determined by MD Chairperson.
- (e) Other costs as determined by the District

Chapter 3 Contestants

The following Sections relate to the recruiting of contestants at club level. Refer to Chapter 3 of the CLUB CHAIRPERSON'S MANUAL for full details

District Chairpersons are to be familiar with the contents of these Sections, although it is the responsibility of Clubs to undertake these tasks.

The topics covered are:

- 3.1 Sources at Club level (Chapter 3.1)
- 3.2 Approach to Schools (Chapter 3.2)
- 3.3 Selection of Contestants at Club level (Chapter 3.3)
- 3.6 Running a Mini Program in the School (Chapter 3.6)

The following Sections are pertinent to all levels of the Program

3.4 Briefing the Contestants

- 3.4.1 Advise Contestants of the format of the Program including the:
 - (a) Entry Form requirements (ref Chapter 2.4.3a)
 - (b) Interview will be 30 - 40 minutes in duration. Assure Contestant that it is a friendly, relaxed experience. (ref Chapter 2.4.3b)
 - (c) Public Speaking function (ref Chapter 2.4.3c)
- 3.4.2 Explain the makeup of the judging panel (ref Chapter 4.1.1)
- 3.4.3 Explain the breakdown of the points scoring system (ref Chapter 2.4.2 and "Guide to Judges" form).
- 3.4.4 Make sure the Contestant is aware of the ongoing commitment through all stages of the Program (Club, Zone, Region, District, State and National). This will include the need to travel distances to the higher levels.
- 3.4.5 Ensure the Contestant meets the eligibility criteria (ref Chapter 2.2.3)
- 3.4.6 Outline the prizes for the State and National winners (ref Chapter 7.2.4 and 7.2.5)
- 3.4.7 Answer any questions. If unsure, advise the Contestant you will find out the correct answers. Contact your District Chairperson for any clarification needed.

- 3.4.8 Although the contestant's prepared speech is an original speech on a topic of their choosing (ref Chapter 2.4.4), contestants should be made aware of the LCI position regarding the discussion of partisan politics and sectarian religion when they are considering their prepared speech.
- 3.4.9 Advise the Contestant of the Youth of the Year website (ref. Chapter 6.2).

3.5 Winners at Zone, Region, District and State levels

N.B. A Public speaking award is made at each level of the Program. The Public Speaking winner does not proceed to the next level of judging unless he/she is also the overall winner.

- 3.5.1 Zone Contestants are the winners of Club judging.
- 3.5.2 Region Contestants are the winners of Zone or Club judging, as applicable. Where there is a Zone judging, 2 Contestants may proceed to Region level judging. There will be no announcement of first and second places at Zone level.
- 3.5.3 District Contestants are the winners of Region judging.
- 3.5.4 State Contestants are the winners of the District finals.
- 3.5.5 In the event of a winner being unable to fulfill the attendance requirements of the next level of the Program, the runners up (in order of finishing) shall be offered the position.

At all levels, Chairpersons **MUST** submit the names of the winners to the Chairperson of the next level in alphabetical order **ONLY**. No scores are to be disclosed at **ANY** time.

Chapter 4 Judges

4.1 General points for all levels

- 4.1.1 At Club, Zone and Region level a panel of three (3) is acceptable.
- 4.1.2 At District, State and MD Finals five (5) judges **MUST** be provided.
- 4.1.3 It is desirable that one of the judges be a representative of the major sponsor.
- 4.1.4 The categories of judging and the allocated points cannot be altered.
- 4.1.5 A person may participate as a Youth of the Year judge once **ONLY** in any Lions year (i.e. July 1 to June 30).
- 4.1.6 It is strongly recommended that a reserve judge be available in the event that a judge is subsequently not available.

The role of a **reserve judge** is that he/she is to be available in the unlikely event that a judge is unable to continue; before the interview commences, during the interviews or before the commencement of the public speaking. The reserve judge sits-in on the interviews and participates in each interview. He or she scores each contestant on each criterion; however, these scores **DO NOT** contribute to the total of the judges' scores. The

reserve judge's scores only apply, in the unlikely event that one of the judges is unable to continue, with the judging process.

4.2 Sources of Judges

The District Chairperson appoints the judging panel.

4.2.1 Prominent citizens who are:

- (a) **NOT** Lions (including Honorary Lions, Privileged Lions and Affiliate members), Lionesses or Leos
- (b) not staff members of Contestants' schools
- (c) not otherwise associated with Contestants
- (d) of varied occupations and interests
- (e) able to relate to youth
- (f) preferably experienced with youth
- (g) of varied age groups from both sexes
- (h) Lions partners are acceptable, though other sources should be exhausted before appointing them
- (i) **representative of the major sponsor**

4.2.2 Guide list only:

Mayor	Accountant	City Councillor
Shire Engineer	Solicitor	Personnel Manager
Doctor	Educationalist	Architect
Local MP	Minister of religion	Bank manager
Company director	Youth leader	Local community identity
Previous winner		

4.3 Briefing of Judges

4.3.1 Contact prospective Judges and:

- ensure that they understand the requirements of Chapter 4.1.5.
- outline aims of Program (see page 2)
- explain the time commitment to:
 - meet with other Judges and set the required questions
 - attend the private interview
 - attend the public speaking function
- provide details of Contestant eligibility
- outline format of Program:
 - Private interview; 30 - 40 minutes per Contestant
 - Public function judging; 2 impromptu questions (2 minutes each) and a 5 minute original speech prepared on topic of contestant's choice.
- know that judgement is based on the criteria published on the Public Speaking Guide.
- provide times and places for the Private Interview and Public Function.
- advise the judges of the Youth of the Year website (ref. Chapter 6.2)

4.3.2 Write to each Judge, including:

- a list of all members of the judging panel
- a copy of the "Guide to Judges" form
- a request to prepare 4 general knowledge/current affairs questions for selection at an informal meeting of Judges with Program Chairperson. The four questions should relate to each of these areas; local, state, national and international knowledge.
- The time and place of the informal meeting of the panel with the Program Chairperson.

- 4.3.3 Conduct a meeting with the panel so that all Judges:
- become acquainted
 - become familiar with the “Guide to Judges” form
 - collaborate in selecting the best 4 questions for the Interview and the best 2 questions for the Improptu Questions from their submissions.
 - are provided with a copy of all entry forms

NB Use the “Guide to Judges” form as the reference material for this meeting.

- 4.3.4 Judges MUST be provided with:
- a copy of each contestant’s Entry Form
 - a Guide to Judges
 - a Public Speaking Guide; one for each contestant
 - note paper

- 4.3.5 Confirm the time and place of judging with the judges for both sections of judging.

Chapter 5 Running the District Final

5.1 General

- (a) Appoint a Club as the Host Club to assist with the District Final. Ensure that the Club is aware that this is a District function NOT a club meeting. The club cannot conduct any club business at this function.
- (b) Set out the duties for the Host Club clearly, in writing. The Host Club is to ensure the actual event runs smoothly, allowing the District Chairperson to concentrate on the interviews and public speaking functions. The Host Club will provide members to assist with running the event; eg ushers, greeters, treasurer, set up venue, clearing up etc.
- (c) Request the Host Club assists with arranging a suitable venue. Meet with the Club and ensure the venue chosen is suitable and has:
 - ample room for the expected audience
 - good acoustics or sound system
 - a soundproof room nearby
 - good catering or kitchen facilities available
- (d) If you are not familiar with the local area, request the Host Club to assist with selection of 4 judges (ref Chapter 4.2). Ensure the major sponsor is requested to provide a judge. If appropriate, the previous District Winner could be invited to be the Reserve judge.
- (e) Meet and brief judges one week before the event (ref Chapter 4.3)
- (f) Write to the Contestants setting out the requirements for the Interviews and Public Function (date, place, times, etc)

5.2 Interviews

- 5.2.1 The purpose of the interview is to provide each contestant with the opportunity
- (a) to verify and to amplify the claims that they have made on their entry form.
 - (b) to test each candidate’s general knowledge/current affairs (ref. 4.3.2)
 - (c) to judge each contestant’s personality. (This can be enhanced in the less formal atmosphere of a meal or an afternoon tea).
- 5.2.2 Preparation for Private Interview

- (a) Arrange the judging time, considering:
 - convenience for panel and contestants
 - the number of Contestants
- (b) Brief and prepare the Contestants (ref Chapter 3.4)
- (c) Brief the Judges (ref Chapter 4.4).
- (d) Establish a private interviewing area with:
 - and chairs arranged informally for panel and Contestant
 - a nearby adjoining sound proof waiting room for Contestants.
- (e) Appoint a committee member to accompany waiting Contestants.
- (f) Provide spare Guides to Judges with score sheets for panel.

5.2.3 Conduct of Private Interview

- (a) All Contestants answer the same four (4) prepared general knowledge questions with the same order of Judges participating in questioning.
- (b) Further questioning will depend on the individual responses of Contestants.
- (c) Each Judge records an individual assessment of each Contestant in the categories heading the score sheet, completing the sub totals by the end of the private interview section.

NB. It is important that these scores are finalized at the completion of the interviews and NOT revisited during the considerations at, or after, the Public Speaking function.

5.3 Public Speaking Function

5.3.1 Preparation for Public Function

- (a) Reconfirm time, place and format of public function judging with judging panel and Contestants.
- (b) Ensure that the venue is suitable:
 - Judges table has a direct view of the stage
 - the microphone is working (where used)
 - assistants are appointed and briefed
 - the sound proof room is appropriate
- (c) Appoint Club members to assist with the duties:
 - 2 members; 1 male and 1 female, to accompany contestants in the sound proof room
 - usher each contestant to the podium
 - 2 timekeepers required (ref Chapter 2.4.3 for timekeeping rules)
- (d) Invitations to the public function judging are to be extended to parents and friends of Contestants, school principals and staff assisting with selection, reserve Judge, local press and anyone else interested.
- (e) A running sheet for the conduct of the function (ref Appendix 2)

5.3.2 Conduct of Public Function Judging

- (a) Timetable the impromptu question section immediately after the call to order and other necessary formalities.
- (b) Timetable the prepared speech section after the main course.
- (c) Follow mandatory judging procedure for the Public Speaking function at all levels (**ref Chapter 2.4.4**)
- (d) Impromptu speeches:
All Contestants (except the first speaker) retire to a sound proof room until called. After speaking, they return to their seat. Contestants **MUST** be accompanied by one (1) male and one (1) female, adult whilst they wait their turn to speak.
- (e) Prepared speeches:
Contestants remain in the audience until called.

- (f) The scores of the Public Speaking section are tallied by the judging panel. Those scores are added to the points awarded for the Interviews to determine the overall winner. The Interview scores are NOT to be reconsidered at this time.
- (g) There will be only one Youth of the Year winner and one Public Speaker winner at all levels. One participant may win both sections. ONLY the overall winner can proceed to the next level of the Program.
- (h) The Chairperson of the Judging Panel is to be the only person to announce the winning participants to the assembled gathering (ref Chapter 2.4.5).
NOTE. Second placing to be confided to Program Chairperson in case of illness or other cause of withdrawal of winner.
- (i) Certificates, prizes and judges' gifts should be presented at the conclusion of the Public Speaking function. (ref Chapter 7.3)
- (j) In closing your Club judging, announce details of the next level of judging.
- (k) Write letters of appreciation to Judges and Contestants as soon as possible after the Club judging.

REMEMBER:

Support from your State Chairperson or Program Chairperson for Australia, is just a phone call away.

Chapter 6 Public Relations

6.1 Press and Publicity

The Lions Youth of the Year Program is a project arousing great local interest and pride in the school principals, teachers, parents, relatives and friends of the Contestants.

Prominent citizens on judging panels and families and friends of Lions Club members add to the range of personal involvement.

It is most important that our major sponsors are recognised at every opportunity, both in the media and by using sponsor personnel as Judges. Make sure that the sponsor is recognised at every function. Borrow a sponsor's banner if available.

Host Club Program Chairperson at all levels should sufficiently impress editors of local newspapers with this wide following, to ensure preliminary publicity and subsequent report and photographs of all public function judging.

If press representatives are unable to attend the public function judging the Program Chairperson should submit a report and photographs to local newspapers immediately after the judging before the news becomes old.

6.2 Website

The Youth of the Year website can be found at www.lionsclubs.org.au/yoty. This website contains all current information available for the Program and is updated regularly throughout the year.

Entrants should be encouraged to visit this website and read all the material it contains.

All printed material is available for downloading on this site.

Contestants who download Entry Forms from this site may choose to fill in the form on their computer, as these are writeable PDFs. All sections MUST be completed on the form in the same way as a handwritten entry.

It is NOT acceptable to download the form and simply attach a Personal Resume that the Contestant may have already prepared.

6.3 Staying in touch - Lions Connecting Youth – (Alumni)

In 2010 the Multiple District Council created a new position to promote a networking relationship between former entrants and to provide a “bank” of young people who are prepared to assist with promoting the Program as judges and Guest Speakers. It also provides a continuing link between Lions and our former contestants. Lions are reminded that our best advertisement comes from those who have participated in the Program and we should take advantage of this partnership whenever possible.

More information is available at www.lionsclubs.org.au/yoty.

Chapter 7 Prizes, Certificates, Sponsorship, Supplies

7.1 General

- (a) A public Speaking award is made at each level of the Program. This winner does not proceed to the next level of judging unless he or she is also the overall winner.
- (b) Each District determines the prizes to be awarded at all levels of the Program within that District.
- (c) Varying levels of District Program entry fees and varying donations of trophies and trips result in the values of prizes varying among Districts.
- (d) Prizes should be presented by a District Officer or Official Guest.

7.2 Prizes and Presentations

District level

- (a) All contestants receive a participation certificate.
- (b) Winner; certificate, keep-sake trophy; award to value of \$100.
- (c) Public Speaking Winner; certificate, keep-sake trophy; award to value of \$50.

Judges

- (a) At Club level a Certificate of Appreciation and a token gift.
- (b) At other levels Host Club President or selected Lion makes presentation as at Club level.
- (c) At all levels Program Chairperson should write letters of thanks.

7.3 Certificates

7.3.1 The following certificates are available:

- (a) Finals: Club, Zone, Region, District and State
- (b) Public Speaking winner
- (c) School Participation
- (d) Appreciation

These certificates are available from all District Chairpersons, or, via download from the website.

7.3.2 Guide for use of Certificates:

- Ensure that all certificates are completed before the public speaking function begins.
- Certificates are to be presented to all Contestants and Judges at all levels of the Program.
- Each entrant will receive a certificate naming them as a finalist, with a special certificate for the overall winner and one for the public speaking winner.
- Certificates for entrants should be presented in a frame or compendium with the explanation that the certificate should be inserted in the student's Personal Folder for future reference.
- Certificates for judges should be framed
- Examples of wording to include on the certificate include:
 - Name (Entrant or Judge)
 - Level (Club, Zone, Region, District, State)
 - Description (Finalist, Winner, Judge)

7.4 Sponsorship

General points for all levels

- 7.4.1 The major sponsor should always be recognised at an early stage in the public function judging.
- 7.4.2 It is recommended that minor sponsorship be sought at all levels.
- 7.4.3 There should be no conflict of interest between sponsors at various levels.
- 7.4.4 Care to be taken that sponsorship is compatible with youth welfare and the aims of Lions Clubs International and the Program.
- 7.4.5 Funds so derived to be used only for the Program.
- 7.4.6 Sponsors are to be suitably acknowledged at the level of their sponsorship.

7.5 Supplies

The type of supplies available for prizes and presentations will vary from time to time as determined by the MD Committee. The details of all supplies and the current prices may be seen on either of the following websites:

Youth of the Year: www.lionsclubs.org.au/yoty

or

Multiple District: <http://www.lionsclubsshop.com.au/>

Check if your District Chairperson has supplies, or order directly from the MD office in Newcastle.

Chapter 8 Lions Connecting Youth – (Alumni)

- 8.1.1 In 2010 the Multiple District Council created a new position: the Youth Membership Conversion Officer (YMCO) to promote a networking relationship between former entrants of YOTY, Youth Exchange (YE) and former Leos. The “Lions Connecting Youth” project includes former YOTY, YE participants and former Leos with whom we would like to maintain a connection.

Whilst it includes more than just former YOTY entrants, it has the potential to provide a “bank” of talented young people who may be prepared to assist in promoting the YOTY Program as judges and Guest Speakers.

Lions are reminded that the best publicity for YOTY is derived from those who have participated in the Program, they are the future leaders within the community and we must take advantage of this valuable partnership whenever possible.

- 8.1.2 Clubs wishing to contact any former Youth of the Year participants with a view to promoting the Program, or for judging duties may do so by contacting the YMCO by email at lionsyouth@gmail.com
- 8.1.3 On receipt of a request, the YMCO will contact the person required to determine their willingness and availability. If the response is positive, then the contact details of that person will be forwarded to the club making the enquiry.
- 8.1.4 The register of contact details will at all times remain confidential and additional details added only with the permission of that person.

More information regarding the Lions Connecting Youth project is available by contacting the Youth Membership Conversion Officer at email lionsyouth@gmail.com.

Appendix 1 National Finalists' Tour

- 1) The tour is approximately 16 days' duration.
- 2) The tour is for the six State winners.
- 3) The tour commences as soon after Christmas as possible, depending on travel arrangements.
- 4) The state winners attend the Lions International Youth Camp at Rotorua, New Zealand. This will be immediately followed by six days at the locality/state of the national winner.
- 5) At the State Final, the sponsoring Club of the State winner is given first right of refusal to host the State winners when visiting that State.
- 6) In the event of the sponsoring Club's refusal to host the State winners, the State Chairperson will duly appoint a host club.
- 7) The Travel Coordinator will issue the Travel Itinerary as early in the new Lions year as possible (July/August).
- 8) The Host Club, in conjunction with their State Chairperson, is responsible for:
 - billeting the State Winners in comfortable and appropriate accommodation
 - formulating an itinerary of activities and local sight-seeing, including, where possible, meetings with Lions and sponsor dignitaries (see 12 below)
 - provision of all local transport required in carrying out such itineraries
 - providing the following to the Travel Coordinator, who, in turn, must copy the information to the National Chairperson and the Coordinator of Youth and Community Projects:
 - (a) contact name and phone number of Host Club liaison Lion, by mid-July.
 - (b) names, addresses and phone numbers of host families, by mid-October.
 - (c) proposed program while hosting, by the end of October.
 - Host families, billeting state winners, MUST undergo a Working With Children Check.
- 9) The State Chairperson should ensure that the Host Club advises him/her of the itinerary in their State.
- 10) The National Youth of the Year budget is designed to cover the costs of **national** transport (air fares, bus fares from capital to regional cities/towns, etc.) and does **not** have the capacity to extend to assistance with local expenses.

NB Clubs that anticipate any difficulty in meeting the expenses incurred in entertaining the state winners are advised; either to be conservative in the construction of their itineraries, or, as they are effectively entertaining the State Winners **on behalf of their states**, to seek assistance from the combined Districts in their State, in conjunction with their State Chairperson.
- 11) The State Chairperson should endeavour to ensure that appropriate media coverage is arranged.
- 12) All District Governors and Vice District Governors are to be advised by the State Chairperson when the State winners are visiting their particular State. A function should be arranged for the State winners with the District Governors and Vice District Governors and sponsor representatives in attendance.

13) The "formal" uniform for State winner is:

- Blazer with scarf or tie supplied by Multiple District.
- White shirt or collared blouse supplied by the State winner.
- Black or navy blue slacks or skirt together with black shoes supplied by the State winner.

The "casual" uniform is:

- Polo style shirt supplied by Multiple District. This can be worn with jeans, slacks, skirt or shorts with casual shoes.

14) The "Formal" uniform must be worn by State winners at all Official Lions and other Official Functions. As an alternative the "casual" uniform may be worn when leaving or arriving at airports, travelling on trains and buses. Remember, the purpose of the uniform is to identify as a group, proudly representing the Youth of the Year Program and lions Australia.

15) At the conclusion of the tour a report is to be prepared and sent by each State winner to the Multiple District Chairperson giving their impression of the tour and the Program as a whole. The report should not exceed two pages and be provided (emailed) by the end of February.

Appendix 2**Sample Program for a District Final**

Lions Club of

Youth of the Year Judging

7.00 pm	Fellowship
7.25 pm	5 minute notice to start of meeting
7.30 pm	Call to order Welcome to Guests Invocation and Loyal Toast Lions Clubs International Objects
7.40 pm	Hand over meeting to Program Chairperson Introduce contestants Impromptu Questions
8.15 pm	Dinner
9.00 pm	Prepared speeches
9.45 pm	Judges retire Recess and Tea/Coffee
10.00 pm	Announcements by the judges' chair and presentations by the club president.
10.15 pm	Return meeting to Club President.
10.30 pm	Close

Appendix 3 JUDGES' BRIEFINGS

Youth of the Year Chairpersons and Coordinators must brief the judges before contestants are interviewed. The National Committee has provided these guidelines for YOTY Chairpersons. The briefing of the judges ensures a thorough understanding of their roles and ensures that the integrity of the YOTY process and procedures from one level to the next of the YOTY Program is maintained.

When conducting judges' briefings, YOTY chairpersons should consult this statement, the Judges' Guidelines and the pertinent chapter of the manuals.

1. Role of the Judges' Chairperson:

- Welcome contestants to the interview room and introduce them to the panellists.
- A friendly and relaxed approach is recommended throughout the interviews.
- Manage the interview process and procedures.
- Before announcements of the winners, provide some feedback to the audience and the contestants. This could include noted strengths of each individual contestant.
- Announce the
 - Public Speaking winner
 - Overall winner

2. Determine the two impromptu questions:

- Impromptu questions should be short and succinct. No more than two short sentences are recommended.
- Each question should be published and printed using at least a large (20+ point) font, so that it can be easily read and referred to by the contestants.
- The subject of these questions should be such that all contestants have the background knowledge to address and to present an opinion.
- Questions with an overt political content are to be avoided.

3. Determine the four general knowledge questions:

- Questions should not be "closed" in their structure in order to solicit a single word answer or response. (Rather than asking: *Which state of Australia implemented a policy of catching and culling sharks to minimize the possibility of human fatalities?* An "open-ended" question could be: *What is your understanding of the issues behind the WA state government's policy of catching sharks and then destroying them?*)
- At the club level, we suggest that the four questions should relate to one question each pertaining to local, state, national and international issues.
- Progressing through the levels, questions of local issues may be inappropriate as some contestants will come from different communities and local government areas. The panellists will need to determine whether it is pertinent to retain a question of a local issue, or to perhaps consider two questions related to state issues.

4. The interview process:

The interview provides the entrant with the opportunity to verify, to clarify, to amplify and to update the claims that they have made on their Entry Forms. (Entry forms may be updated and resubmitted at any stage up to and including the State Final. Resubmitted forms must be received by the YOTY chairperson of that particular final/stage, at least one week before that final. It must also be endorsed by the School's Principal and a Lions Club representative).

5. Contestants and Judges Getting to Know Each Other:

For the majority of the Youth of the Year contestants, it is the first time that they will have been involved in a formal interview. Most, if not all, will be nervous prior to an interview. It is recommended that in order to relax them, that an informal morning tea, or lunch, open to contestants and judges, alone, be provided. Judges should endeavour to mix with contestants and attempt to interact equally with all contestants.

Appendix 4

POLICY: A NATURAL DISASTER IMPACTING A STATE OR NATIONAL FINAL

This Policy was proposed by the Youth of the Year sub-committee in November 2014 and endorsed by the Council of Governors at its January 2015, meeting.

- This policy & procedures are to apply where a contestant, at a State or National final is unable to attend owing to the impact of a natural disaster.
- Visual communication (video conferencing, Skype etc.) will be permitted, noting that it will be difficult to create a level playing field using this medium.
- This visual communication is to be used for the initial interview and for the presentation of the public speaking.
- If more than one contestant is affected by the natural disaster the matter is to be referred jointly to the Council Chairperson, Executive Officer, Legal Officer, National Treasurer, National Coordinator Youth & Community Projects and YOTY Program Chairperson for a decision on whether the event should proceed and their decision will be final.
- A participant, affected by a natural disaster, can only be accommodated, as detailed above, if the venue at the time has the capacity to comply.

STATE FINALS

- It will be the responsibility of the District in question, to make the arrangements at the home location of the contestant to provide the technology to meet the visual communication. It will be also the District's responsibly to ensure any time parameters set by the judging panel, or organising chair are met.
- It will also be the responsibly of the District to work closely with the State Coordinator to organise the availability of the visual communication at the final's venue, noting the State Coordinator already has demanding duties at this event. It is in the District's interest to ensure that these arrangements are met.
- It is normal that the order of speaking is by ballot and this can still apply for the prepared speech, but due to confidentiality constraints a contestant using visual communication would need to go first with the impromptu questions. It should also be noted that unlike the other contestants the remote contestant will not be provided with a written version of the impromptu questions at the conclusion of the question being asked twice.
- The off-site contestant should be exposed to an audience for their public speaking segment of not less the 20 people to create an appropriate environment.
- Because of time and other constraints, which include travel and accommodation, the scheduling of the State Final cannot be delayed or rescheduled. In the event that the affected contestant is unable to participate, the Final will proceed without him/her.

NATIONAL FINAL

- The same as for the State Final, noting that the State Coordinator would be expected to be at the National Convention to assist the rest of the committee with the National Final.

CONSIDERATION

- Costs, other than at the final's venue, are to be met by the District/s involved.
- If communications are affected at the contestant's home area, or indeed the area where the final is taking place, or that communications are less than satisfactory due to the effects of the natural disaster, or other reason, then the YOTY State Coordinator, in consultation with the National Program Chairman and the National Coordinator Youth & Community Projects has the final decision on this issue. The District Governors of that State will be consulted.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO STATE FINAL

- Public transport to the State Final of a District winner is the responsibility of that District, both in cost and arrangement. The contestant's Club may wish to take a lead role in this

matter as the District's agent; however, it should never be left to the contestant or the parents of the contestant. Furthermore, if it is an air fare that is required, it should be managed through a travel agent who can take charge, in the event of a natural or other disaster and provide the best possible outcome. It is recommend that budget airlines are not used.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO NATIONAL FINAL

- The YOTY sub-committee's, Travel Coordinator, is responsible for arranging travel, for the State winners to the venue for the National Final, through the MD's travel agent.