

Frequently Asked Questions for Youth Corps Leaders Programme (Project)

1. What is the Youth Corps Leaders Programme (Project)?

It is a community leadership programme designed for volunteer leader-in-training (also known as an Aspirant) to conceptualise and implement a service-learning project to address real needs on the ground with a National Agency and/or Community Partner, while rallying other youths to join your cause. There will also be trainings, mentorship and funding support through your journey.

Over a period of 9 to 12 months, Aspirants will achieve the following:

- Develop community leadership skills through trainings, mentoring and implementation of a sustainable service-learning project
- Gain insight into national issues and challenges, and the individual's role in shaping Singapore
- Be empowered to lead, advocate and take action on community issues that you are passionate about
- Learn to assess community needs and manage stakeholders
- Lead self and build high performing teams

2. What is the difference between the Youth Corps Leaders Programme & Youth Corps Leaders Programme – NEA Youth For Environmental Sustainability (YES) Edition?

The latter is a new partnership with NEA to bring in sustainability projects into the Youth Corps Leaders Programme. Aspirants who are onboard for either edition of the Youth Corps Leaders Programme will go through a similar number of milestones. NEA will provide additional trainings / learning journeys in the area of sustainability and provide platforms at NEA's events to create awareness/exposure of the projects. Hence, there are additional milestones for the Aspirants on this edition of programme. Aspirants who successfully complete the programme will be conferred as both a Youth Corps Leader and a NEA Youth Ambassador. Thereafter, they can look forward to further post-programme opportunities with Youth Corps and NEA.

3. Who is eligible to join?

This programme is open and suitable for any youths aged 17 – 25 years old, who

- have exhibited leadership qualities
- are actively involved in community service

4. It is stated that the programme is suitable for youths ages to 25 years old, if I am turning 25 and not selected for this run, can I still apply when I am above the age stated?

Yes, if you have exhibited leadership qualities and are actively involved in community service, we welcome you to apply for this programme.

5. How will Youth Corps Aspirants be recruited and selected?

There will be an open recruitment process. Applicants will have to go through a selection exercise which consists of activities and an interview with Youth Corps Singapore staff before being accepted for the programme.

6. How many people will be accepted to the programme?

The intake numbers vary per year. We will accept as many suitable candidates as we can accommodate in accordance to the resources allocated. In the past few years, the highest intake stands at around 80 pax.

7. Will I be able to appeal should I not be selected?

No appeal cases will be considered as we do a thorough screening of the applicants before and during the selection exercise. We encourage you to apply again for the subsequent intakes.

Requirements

8. What do I have to fulfil as an Aspirant of the Youth Corps Leaders Programme (Project)?

Aspirants are required to complete all of the following milestones as part of the Youth Corps Leaders Programme:

- 3-day Induction Camp (Online/Onsite TBC) [17 – 19 Dec 21]
- 1-day Community Project Management Training [15 Jan 22]
- 1-day Volunteer Management Training [16 Jan 22]
- 1-day Pitching & Fundraising Training [22 Jan 22]
- Pitch & Project Sharing [26 Feb, 2 Mar 22]
- Midpoint Check-in + Social Event [8 May 22]
- Celebration Day [19 Nov 22]
- Serve in a Youth Corps curated community service activity [Sign up through <https://www.volunteer.gov.sg/>]
- Attend a Red Box programme [Sign up through <https://www.volunteer.gov.sg/>]
- Design, implement and handover a service-learning project*

*Estimated project commitment per week \geq 6 hours/week, which includes project meeting and project execution, subjected to your team's schedule.

Please note that commitment and contribution to your respective projects will affect your conferment from the programme.

9. Do I have to attend all trainings?

Aspirants are expected to attend all core trainings and an additional elective of their choice as it is essential for your development as a youth volunteer leader. Aspirants who do not meet the required attendance for trainings may not be conferred as Youth Corps Leaders.

10. Why is it a requirement to serve as in a Youth Corps curated community service event?

This is a leadership development programme where we hope Aspirants learn to lead other youth volunteers to participate in community service activities. Serving in a Youth Corps curated community service activity will help Aspirants to understand and learn from the approach that we take in organising an impactful community service activity, as well as our volunteer management philosophy and practices.

11. Why is it a requirement to attend a Red Box programme?

We organise talks, dialogues and other engagement sessions at the Red Box to help members and leaders to increase their awareness of different social issues and network with like-minded youths. We hope to introduce the Red Box programmes to Aspirants as these will facilitate their continued development with Youth Corps Singapore even after they have completed the programme.

12. What will the workload be like for a typical week in this programme (no. of hours per week, how many meet ups per week) and when are the busier periods?

The expected commitment level is estimated to be about \geq 6 hours a week, inclusive of team meetings, project planning and client engagement. This is subjected to your team's work flow and arrangements as well.

Support

13. What kinds of training does Youth Corps Singapore provide?

You can look forward to core trainings on volunteer management, project management, stakeholder management, active citizenry, and, among others. These workshops will enable you to learn how to generate creative yet practical solutions to a community issue, manage multiple stakeholders, and successfully implement a sustainable service-learning project. In the course of the programme, elective trainings to support functional roles such as fundraising, and evaluation will be available for you.

14. Will Youth Corps provide any funding or do we have to raise our own funds for our projects?

Youth Corps will provide project funding up to S\$10,000 or 80% of the total allowable expenditure of the project, whichever is lower. All Aspirant teams will be required to pitch or share their project proposals to Youth Corps Singapore. Upon project approval, the teams will be informed of the final approved Youth Corps Aspirant Project (YCAP) grant amount. You and your team members will have to fundraise 20% of the final total allowable expenditure of the project.

Project

15. What types of projects will be available?

Projects will span across various causes related to social inclusion, such as Children and Family, Seniors, Special Needs, Youth, and Sustainability. These projects could fall in either of these categories –

- Sustain – Sustain an existing project
- Scale – Scale an existing project into a new site
- Start – Start a new project

In any of these projects, teams will have to work on their project sustainability and handover their projects to a new group of youths.

A list of the projects with more details will be made available to all applicants at a later date.

16. Can I choose the project I would like to serve in?

Aspirants will get to indicate their top 5 choices. Thereafter, Youth Corps Singapore will match Aspirants to a project based on their preference and suitability.

17. I am currently in an existing Youth Corps Regular Programme, e.g. YOLDEN, can I join the Youth Corps Leaders Programme (Project) as an Aspirant?

Volunteers and EXCO members of existing Regular Programmes are welcomed to join the programme as an Aspirant. You would also be given the option to continue serving at current Regular Programme or choose another project from our list to serve.

18. How are the team members allocated?

Allocation of project groups is based on candidates' interest and suitability. In groups of 8-10, you can expect to work with a diverse group of youth who are currently in ITE, Poly, Uni, NS, gap year or working.

19. How many Aspirants will there be in each project team?

Each team will comprise of six to eight Aspirants. Each Aspirant team will be guided by an experienced mentor and supported by an account manager from Youth Corps Singapore.

20. What is the project duration?

A Youth Corps Aspirant Project duration, inclusive of project handover is between 9 to 12 months. When teams have been formed, Aspirants and mentors will discuss on the most suitable time frame needed after conducting the community needs analysis and assessing the resources available for the project.

21. Can I change my team at any point during my Aspirant journey?

You are required to remain in your original team throughout the 9 to 12 months, unless otherwise informed by Youth Corps Singapore. You are strongly encouraged to highlight any challenges to your mentor so he/she could help you to address them. However, if you would still like to change team after speaking with your mentor, your mentor will consult Youth Corps Singapore for a decision.

22. Can I change my mentor?

You will be attached to the same mentor throughout the programme, unless otherwise informed by Youth Corps Singapore. Nevertheless, if you encounter any problems with your mentor, you may contact your team's account manager from Youth Corps Singapore, who will then make an assessment and inform you of Youth Corps Singapore's decision. You will be introduced to your team's account manager at the start of the programme.

23. Can my team change project midway?

Teams are required to adhere to their projects. It is important for teams to follow through their respective projects for purposes of accountability, learning and development.

24. The project should operate like a non-profit organization/ social enterprise? Or is profit-making allowed for the project as well?

The projects are not set out to be profit-making. All projects will be funded up to 80%. Teams are required to fundraise the remaining 20%. Any additional amount raised will be deemed as income and should be channelled to fund the project as well.

Covid-19 Opportunities & Constraints

25. What are the changes that might apply because of the COVID situation?

Due to the current COVID limitations, the programme will be conducted online till further notice. However, we hope that by next year, all will be able to conduct physical client engagements.

Post-Programme

26. What happens after completing Youth Corps Leaders Programme (Project)?

Upon completion of Youth Corps Leaders Programme, Aspirants are conferred as Youth Corps Leaders and will receive a testimonial. They will be provided with multiple development

pathways to sustain their engagement and volunteerism with Youth Corps Singapore. These include:

- Funding Support: Initiate new community projects with our Pay-it-Forward Award (PIFA)
- International Exposure: Interaction with Overseas communities to gain global perspectives
- Internship: Intern with Youth Corps Singapore, Community Partners and Companies (CSR's team)
- Leading Initiatives: Take up leadership roles and serve at Youth Corps Singapore community service events
- Mentor: Guide and mentor next cohort of Youth Corps Aspirant teams
- Interest-based Cluster: Participate in Youth-led cluster
- Networks: Connect with the community of Youth Corps Leaders

27. What obligations do we need to fulfill after the programme to remain as Youth Corps Leaders?

There are no expected commitments post-programme. There will be programmes and various pathways where you will be able to continue to serve and develop yourself in the area of volunteerism and community service.

Others

28. May I check if there are other shorter-term programmes held by Youth Corps next year that I can apply for?

Visit <https://www.volunteer.gov.sg> to discover short-term programmes and volunteering opportunities available.

29. Should I decide that I'm unable to commit to this programme for the Dec 2021 to 2022 intake, will I be able to apply for it in the future?

Yes! Should you be unable to commit to the December intake, you are able to apply again for the future runs. Do keep your eyes peeled on our [Instagram page](#) for news on our next intake.

Meanwhile, you may like to consider other available opportunities that we have listed on <https://www.volunteer.gov.sg>.

For any further questions, please reach us at Youth_Corps_Enquiries@nyc.gov.sg.

Thank you.