



Youth Environment Council of SA: Where are they now?



Name: Thomas Milham

Years involved: 2009-11, Mentor 2011

Current role: Youth Development Officer, Scouts SA

I have a casual paid role with Scouts SA, but that's about 5% of the work I do for them as I'm also involved as a volunteer in many other programs. I also volunteer for Scouting Australia.

What was the most significant change that came from your involvement with the YEC?

The YEC was the first youth council I sat on external to school. This provided me with the inspiration and skills to join other youth councils through scouting, such as the branch youth council (Scouting SA) and the national youth council (Scouting Australia). I now sit on the branch rover council (SA) providing support to rover crews across SA and collaborating with scouts from all around Australia.

Why was this important?

The YEC was a launchpad for me to get out and see the bigger picture, and provide motivation and growth for leadership and organisational skills. I didn't care about the title, but began to see myself as a leader of others and this has helped with my work in a number of roles since then. I've been involved with Scouts for 15 years, but the YEC has taught me to recognise that more opportunities present themselves as you get older and I've been able to act on them!

What advice would you give to current and future members of the YEC?

I think it's important to take opportunities when they come up, and push outside your comfort zone. It's actually really good fun to meet other people, even though it can be scary at first to be part of a group where you don't know anyone. You can also get some really good projects happening with others when you share the same values.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

I am still really happy I had the opportunity to have been a mentor, because that leadership role helped me in mentoring other young people in leadership roles in turn. I actually saw a membership application for a committee I sit on recently, from someone who flagged their involvement with the YEC and that was really cool- you never know who you might come into contact with again.