



YEC Welcome Forum Member Brief

The first event for this year's Youth Environment Council (YEC) is the Welcome Forum, held at Cleland Wildlife Park. It will be an exciting day where you will meet and share ideas with the other Council members, participate in fun activities, and find out more about the program.



YEC members at the 2019 Welcome Forum



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South Australia**

The Youth Environment Council is a joint initiative of
Green Adelaide and the Department for Education.

www.yecsa.net.au

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When you arrive, you'll see Green Adelaide education staff at the desk by the front entrance. They will check you in and answer any questions you or your parents/carers have.



Map of Cleland Wildlife Park



YEC banner

If you have any forms you haven't handed in yet, you can give them to staff when you check in. You'll then be given a lanyard with your name tag and be directed inside the gate to our meeting spot at the Valente Education Centre (see map above).

The friendly **Green Adelaide education staff** will be at the forum the whole day, and you can approach them anytime if you have questions or concerns.

You can find out more about the staff by visiting the staff webpage: yecsa.net.au/yec-staff-team



Alex



Amy



Cally



Chris



Elisia



Jeremy



Kelly



Melissa



Paige



Pia



Rob



Sam



Sophie



Steve



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There will also be 6 student leaders called '**YEC mentors**', who you can go to if you have questions or need support. They will be wearing YEC tops and bandanas at the forum, to help you identify them.

The mentors have all been a part of the YEC before and remember what it was like the first time they went to the Welcome Forum. Some of them will be at the gate to greet you. The mentors will all be helping to run activities during the day, and available to support you throughout the year.

You can find out more about the mentors by visiting the mentor webpage: yecsa.net.au/meet-the-mentors-2021



Chelsea



Emily



Grace



Jordan



Keira



Sharif



Throughout the day, we'll be taking individual photos of all members (like the photos of the mentors). The staff are responsible for making sure that everyone is safe, and so these photos help us to know who is a part of our group, so we can ensure everyone is accounted for.



YEC members at Cleland Wildlife Park

There will be up to 60 students at the forum, and for most of you, this will be your first time as a YEC member. These students will be coming from different schools across South Australia, and may include Kangaroo Island, Eyre Peninsula and Mount Gambier, as well as metropolitan Adelaide.



YEC members networking

It's both the staff and students' first time meeting everyone, and so we'll all be learning everybody's names. We'll provide you your nametag at every event to help us all with this.



At the beginning of the day while we wait for all the members to arrive, the YEC mentors will lead some 'icebreaker' games helping us get to know each other.



Students playing an icebreaker game

In the morning, we will outline the general rules for the day and discuss 'group norms', which are guidelines for how we will behave as a group. The day will also involve group discussions with people from your regional area, activities around the park, and a break for recess and lunch. At the forum you will find out more about the project element of the YEC, and see examples of projects from past members.



Students participating in a group activity



If we move around the park for activities during the day, we'll give everyone a reminder in case they have any medication or items they would like to bring with them.



Students at Cleland Wildlife Park

The Welcome Forum is an exciting day, but we also understand that there are a lot of new faces and information to take in. If you start to feel overwhelmed at any stage, unwell, uncomfortable participating in an activity, or unclear about any instructions, then you can talk to one of the Green Adelaide education staff or mentors. We will be able to have a chat with you, help you find a quiet place to take some time out if you like, and/ or support you until you feel comfortable re-joining the group.



Staff and YEC member participating in an activity together



If there's anything in particular you would like us to know so that we can best help you to participate, then you or your parents/carers can also let us know before the day, and we'll follow your recommendations on how you'd like us to support you.



Student with native animals at Cleland Wildlife Park

After the Welcome Forum, the next time we'll all see each other is at the camp, which you'll receive more information about soon.

We're looking forward to meeting you at the forum and having a fun first day together as a group. We hope you're looking forward to it too!



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