

The Young Environmentalist Leadership Course (YELC)



Programme Information:

Applications due to CCMI: 17th March 2023
Interview dates: 20th - 24th March 2023
Dive Training on Grand Cayman: 25th March 2023
Little Cayman dates: 2nd-11th August 2023

The CCMI Young Environmentalist Leadership Course (YELC) provides an opportunity for up to ten local students to continue their educational pathway in the marine sciences, environmental conservation, or ecotourism. Throughout March - July, YELC participants complete their PADI Open Water, Advanced Open Water, and Rescue Diver certifications before attending a 10-day long course with CCMI's Education Team at the Little Cayman Research Centre. Students are trained in the Emergency First Responder course and the Emergency Oxygen provider course for scuba related injuries. Alongside these skills, participants are taught how to use tool and equipment underwater, to assist with research projects and citizen science initiatives across the Caribbean. Students take part in career networking meetings, lionfish dissections, CV and cover letter workshops, Caribbean marine creature identification, interview skill building, a stakeholder workshop, and mock job interviews.



This programme works to build the skills of 10 young Caymanians, who seek the experience to become enthusiastic environmental ambassadors. Students are exposed to a breadth of opportunities in our local marine industry and as a result, make important connections for future employment and internship opportunities. Local businesses that have been supportive and involved in this programme over the years include Go Pro Diving Cayman, Dive Tech, Cayman Eco Divers Foundation, The Blue Iguana Recovery Programme, The National Trust of the Cayman Islands, Shark Conservation Cayman, Plastic Free Cayman, Red Sail Sports, Ocean Frontiers, Pro Yacht, Cayman Kayaks, the Southern Cross Club, Little Cayman Beach Resort, Little Cayman Divers, Pirates Point Resort, and government agencies include the Cayman Islands Department of Environment, John Gray High School, Clifton Hunter High School and the Cayman Islands Further Education Centre (CIFEC).

The YELC programme bridges an important gap for local students who may not otherwise have access to post-school education or industry certifications in the Cayman Islands, breaking down financial and educational barriers.

Scholarship Information

Applications are currently open for ten fully funded scholarships thanks to the financial support provided by Foster's Supermarket and Cayman National Bank.

Young Environmentalist Leadership Course 2023 Application

Applicant Requirements

- A permanent resident of the Cayman Islands or a Caymanian passport holder
- In final year in the Cayman Islands School System or recent school graduate
- Interest in pursuing a career in marine science, environmental conservation, or ecotourism

Included in Scholarship

The complete course costs, including;

- 10 days accommodation at the Little Cayman Research Centre
- 10 days of meals at the Little Cayman Research Centre
- Transportation around Little Cayman during 10 days of stay
- Roundtrip flights from Grand Cayman or Cayman Brac to Little Cayman
- PADI Open Water Diver certification course
- PADI Advanced Open Water Diver certification course
- PADI Rescue Diver certification course
- PADI Emergency First Responder certification course
- PADI Emergency Oxygen Provider certification course
- All SCUBA dives & equipment during 10 days of stay at the Little Cayman Research Centre
- All Instructor fees & classroom and field materials
- The use of CCMI bicycles and kayaks during 10 days of stay at the Little Cayman Research Centre

Not Included in Scholarship

- Divers Alert Network (DAN) insurance

How to Apply

Applications should consist of;

- A completed application form
- A Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach, employer, camp director, or similar)
- The information of two contacts of reference (ex. teacher, coach, employer, camp director, or similar)

Completed applications to be sent to:

education@reefresearch.org

Please mark your application: **YELC Application 2023**

The closing date for applications is **17th March 2023**

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YY)

Phone number

Email Address

Gender

Name of current / former school

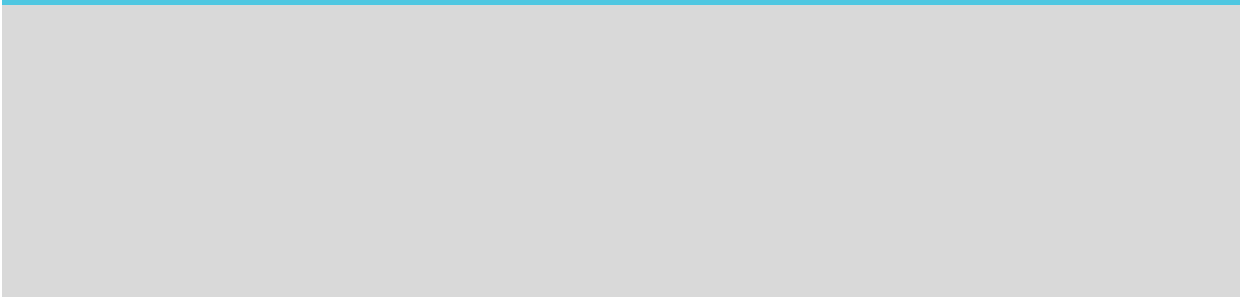
Tell us about yourself.

Why have you decided to apply for the 2023 Young Environmentalist Leadership Course (YELC)?


Why do you deserve this scholarship opportunity over others?

What do you hope to gain from this experience?

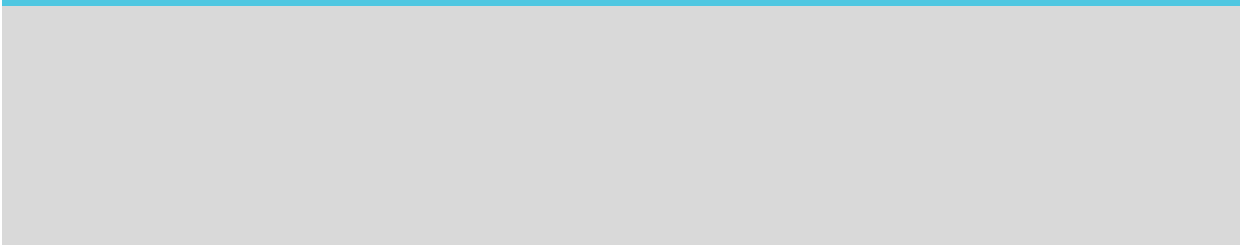
What positive impacts are you currently making on the local environment or in your community?



Tell us about a hardship or a challenge you had to overcome and how you managed to do this.



Share with us one of your most meaningful life experiences thus far.



What career would you like to pursue in the future? How will YELC help you with this profession?

