

## The Young Environmentalist Leadership Course (YELC)



### Programme Information:

Applications due to CCMI:	22nd March 2024
Interview dates:	25th - 29th March 2024
Dive training begins on Grand Cayman:	13th April 2024
Little Cayman dates:	5th - 11th August 2024

The Central Caribbean Marine Institute's (CCMI) Young Environmentalist Leadership Course (YELC) provides an opportunity for up to 10 local students to continue their educational pathway in the marine sciences, environmental conservation, or ecotourism. From April - August, YELC participants complete their PADI Open Water, Advanced Open Water, and Rescue Diver certifications before attending a 7-day residential course at the Little Cayman Research Centre (LCRC) with CCMI's education team. Students are also 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 various underwater tools and equipment to better assist them with research projects and citizen science initiatives across the Caribbean. Students take part in networking opportunities, 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 or permanent residents of the Cayman Islands 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, they 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, the Mangrove Rangers, Cayman Kayaks, the Southern Cross Club, Little Cayman Beach Resort, Little Cayman Divers, Pirates Point Resort, and government agencies including the Cayman Islands Department of Environment, John Gray High School, Clifton Hunter High School, the University College of the Cayman Islands, and the Cayman Islands Further Education Centre.

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

Applications are currently open for 10 fully funded scholarships thanks to the financial support provided by Foster's Supermarket, Rotary Central, and Go Pro Cayman Diving.

#### Applicant Requirements

- Caymanian nationals or permanent residents of the Cayman Islands
- 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, includes;

- 7 days accommodation at the Little Cayman Research Centre
- 7 days of meals at the Little Cayman Research Centre
- Ground transportation in Little Cayman
- 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 7 days of stay at the Little Cayman Research Centre
- All instructor fees & classroom and field materials
- The use of CCMI bicycles and kayaks during 7 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 different 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 2024.  
**The closing date for applications is 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.**

## YELC 2024 Application

First name	<input type="text"/>	Last name	<input type="text"/>	Date of birth (DD/MM/YY)	<input type="text"/>
Phone number	<input type="text"/>	Email address	<input type="text"/>		
Gender	<input type="text"/>	Name of current/former school	<input type="text"/>		

Tell us about yourself.

Why have you decided to apply for the 2024 Young Environmentalist Leadership Course (YELC)?

What do you know about CCMI?

---

What do you hope to gain from this experience?

---

How does this course fit into your long-term personal and career goals?

---

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 do you consider to be the most important environmental issue humans currently experience?

---

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

---

Why do you deserve this scholarship opportunity?

---

What would this opportunity mean to you?

---