



The Young Environmentalist Leadership Course (YELC)



Programme Information:

Applications due to CCMI:	21 st March 2025
Interview dates:	24 th - 28 th March 2025
Dive training begins (Grand Cayman):	5 th April 2025
Little Cayman dates:	11 th - 17 th August 2025

The 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. Throughout March - August, YELC participants complete their PADI Open Water, Advanced Open Water, and Rescue Diver certifications before attending a 7-day course with CCMI's education team at the Little Cayman Research Centre (LCRC). 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 tools and

equipment underwater, to assist with research projects, and support 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 up to 10 young Caymanians annually, who seek the experience to become enthusiastic environmental ambassadors. Students are exposed to a breadth of opportunities in the 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, DiveTech, 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, and government agencies including the Cayman Islands Department of Environment, John Gray High School, Clifton Hunter High School, and the Cayman Islands Further Education Centre (CIFEC).

YELC helps bridge 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 10 fully funded scholarships thanks to the financial support provided by the programme sponsors.



Young Environmentalist Leadership Course

2025 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;

- 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 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 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 2025**

The closing date for applications is **5 pm, 21st March 2025**

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth
(DD/MM/YY)

Phone
number

Email Address

Gender

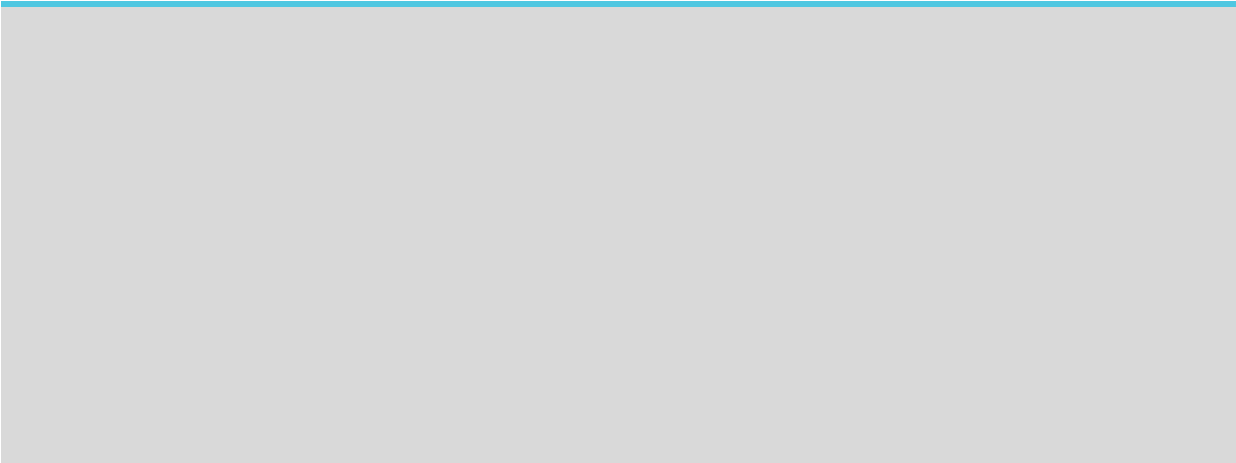
Name of current
/ former school

Tell us about yourself.

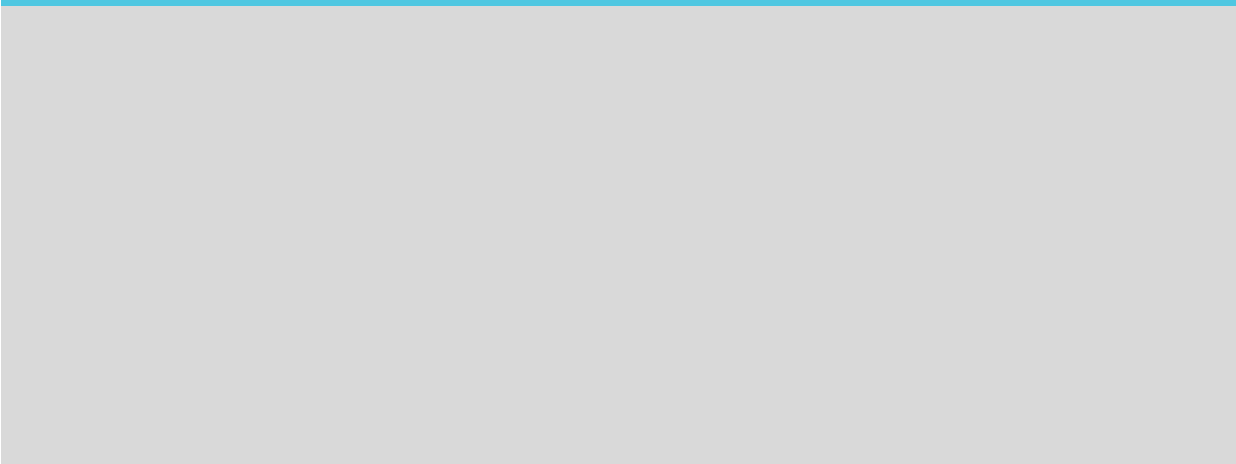
Why have you decided to apply for the 2025 Young Environmentalist Leadership Course (YELC)?

Why do you deserve this scholarship opportunity?

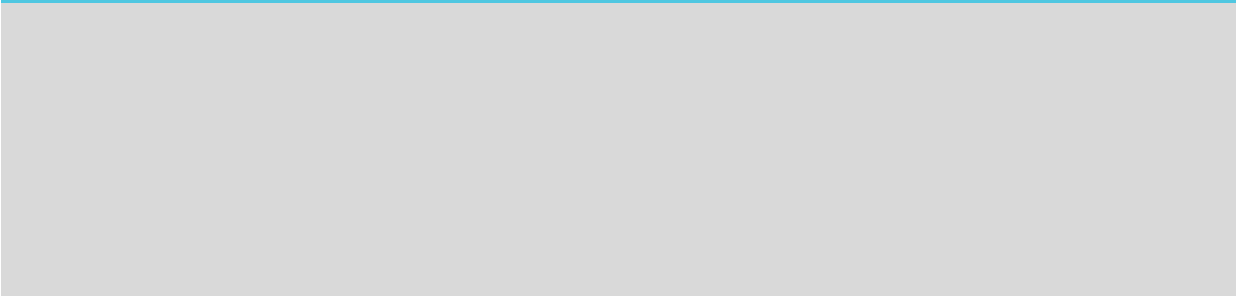
What do you hope to gain from this experience?



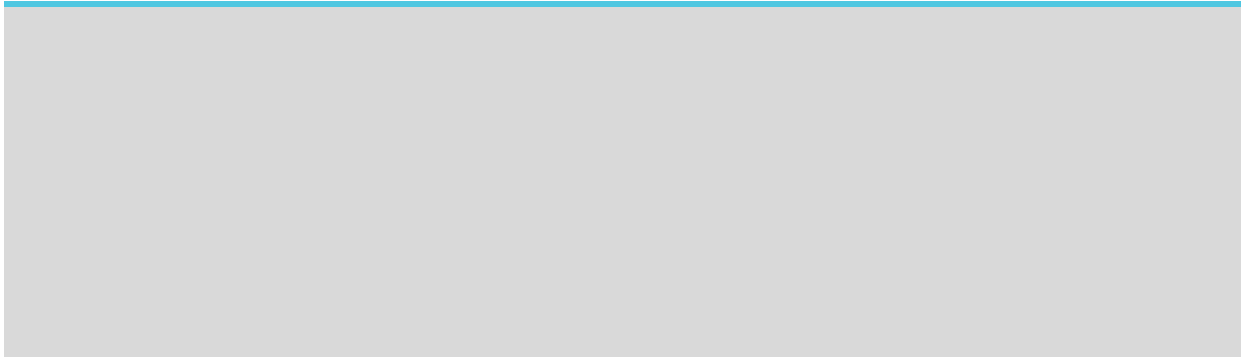
How do you think this programme will help you professionally **over** compared to other available opportunities?



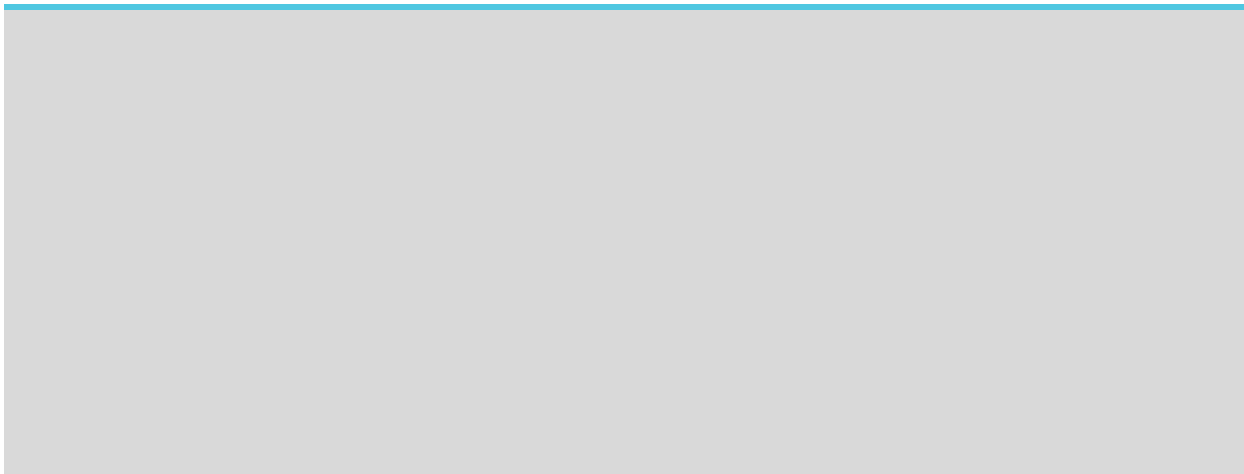
What positive impacts are you currently making on the local environment or in your community?



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?

