

**Youth Expedition Project – A Service-Learning Programme
Proposal for a Poster Presentation (Booth-style)**

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1. Introduction to YEP

Youth Expedition Project (YEP) is a Service-Learning programme by Youth Corps Singapore (YCS) that encourages issue-based learning among youth aged 15 to 35 years old, through community Service-Learning projects. The objectives of YEP are to nurture confident youth as socially responsible and active citizens, who can identify needs and contribute to the community both at home and overseas.

YEP started in 2000 under the Singapore International Foundation and has moved over to the purview of the National Youth Council since 2006 with 4 aims:

- (1) Self-confident youth who are able to work as teams;
- (2) Youth with strong convictions about their roles and obligations towards the community;
- (3) Youth with a strong Singaporean heartbeat and a better appreciation for our systems, policies and way of life; and
- (4) Singaporeans as caring neighbours and global citizens through sustainable and meaningful projects.

The programme design of YEP consists a few crucial elements.

1. Minimum of 10 Service-Learning Days
2. Facilitation and Reflection
3. 3 Phases of YEP (Preparation, Overseas Project and Local Project)

These elements work together to achieve our 4 aims. The minimum of 10 Service-Learning days allows for sufficient cultural exposure, which is essential for experience and teamwork. Facilitation and reflection during the programme is the key differentiating factor of YEP and other overseas community service projects. Facilitation draws out learning points during the trip, which allows the participants to understand the rationale of their service, discuss issues from personal development to the global context, and be able to better serve their community.

2. Results and evolution of YEP

YEP is a good platform for youth development. A research that was carried out in 2013 on YEP has highlighted significant improvements in participants' confidence and sense of self-worth, adaptability

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and sense of responsibility. This translates to behavioural changes seen in the increase of volunteering frequency, spending more time with their loved ones and better analytical, teamwork and interpersonal skills.¹

Since its inception, YEP has grown from impacting a few hundred youths in early 2000s to currently supporting about 4,000 participants annually to our neighbouring countries, with a focus on ASEAN, China and India.

In 2009, National Youth Council adopted a Programme Funding approach to empower organizations (typically educational institutions or youth sector organizations) to process YEP under their purview in an effort to make this programme easily available to more youth participants.

In 2016, the administration of YEP was handed over to Youth Corps Singapore (YCS), the volunteering arm of National Youth Council. This is to better align itself as a youth centric programme and to integrate participants to the volunteering scene in Singapore after the completion of YEP.

To better prepare our youths for this fast-changing world, YCS has piloted an alternative model of YEP in 2018 to Indonesia and China. The Alternate YEP incorporates the segment of a dedicated Learning Journey to the city to provide a holistic perspective to participants by exposing them to possibilities and developments in the country. These can be guided tours to various forms of businesses (MNCs, start-ups, non-profits and more), visits to cultural and historical sites or youth-youth interaction. This is completed with a facilitation to consolidate their learnings.

3. Rationale and proposed method of delivery

We will like to propose a Poster Presentation (Booth-style) during the conference. The foundation of YEP does not stem from the academic or research field but rather from experiential learnings and programme execution and management. We believe that this choice will not only allow us to better present our materials but also provide a more pleasant experience and valuable takeaway for the conference attendees.

This Booth-style aims to include interactive elements such as face-to-face conversations and videos during our sharing. For face-to-face conversations, this will replicate the idea of a Human Library where conference attendees can hear from a diverse group of stakeholders of YEP to grasp a holistic view of the programme.

Our targeted audience are practitioners and enablers of service-learning (educators, governmental organizations and youth sector organizations). By sharing this programme with them, we hope to achieve two outcomes.

- (1) We want to allow these enablers or practitioners who are able to effect change to adopt the idea of a service-learning programme that can be conducted both overseas and locally in their community. With this sharing, conference attendees can not only hear from the programme managers the know-hows of starting the programme within their countries, they also get to witness the results of this programme by speaking to different youths, both leaders and members alike who have undergone YEP.

¹ Refer to Annex A

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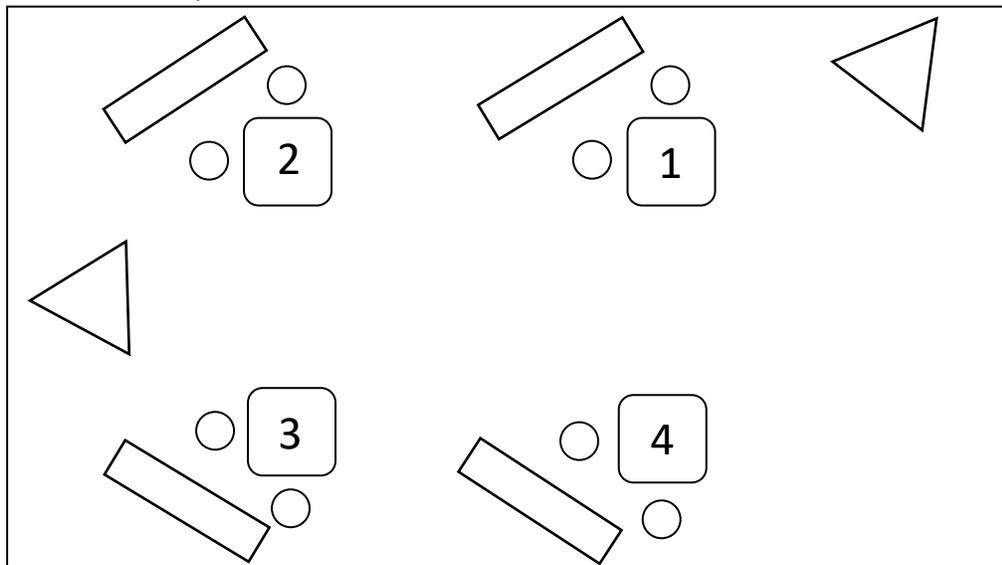
- (2) After this sharing, we hope to spark collaboration within the sector which can include having youth-youth interaction between organizations or even countries for the YEP programme. This can come in the likes of learning journeys, cultural exchanges and volunteering together at a common site.

Our proposed groups of stakeholders are:

- 1 – YEP Cluster Members (YEP volunteers with YCS)
- 2 – YEP Leaders
- 3 – YCS Staff (Programming, Grant, Implementation and Management)
- 4 – Alternate YEP Participants (Participants from 2018 pilot trip to Chengdu and Indonesia)

**numbers are assigned groups in the layout below.*

A draft of the layout is attached in Picture 1.



Picture 1

Triangles – represent information boards and/or TV Screen for video screening.
 Rectangles – represent infographics/pictures of the YEP programme.

Logistics required:

Item	Quantity	Remarks
Tables	4	Can be a side table (small sized)
Cocktail Table	1	
Chairs/Stools	15 – 20	
Power Sockets	2	

Space allocated will need to comfortably fit at least 15 – 20 persons.

4. Conclusion and contribution to practice

With this, we would like to impart to conference attendees a wholesome perspective of the YEP programme with our interactive elements of a Human Library concept sharing and videos. Equipped with this knowledge, conference attendees will feel empowered and inspired to kick-start a programme similar in their community. The possibility of the emergence of future collaborations between organizations or countries from the result of this conference will benefit the service-learning space tremendously.

Keywords: Service-Learning, Overseas, Volunteering, Youth

[NOT APPLICABLE]

Biographical sketch of each presenter

Please send the biographical sketch of the presenters together with the proposal using the following format:

Presenter 1:

- i. Last name followed by first name:
- ii. Position/department/organisation/country:
- iii. Short biography (word count should not exceed 70 words)
- iv. Contact information (address, email address, homepage)

Email

Website:

Address: