

National Youth Science Forum

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The National Youth Science Forum is a prestigious Australian program dedicated to exposing year eleven students who are heading into year twelve and are thinking about a career in science, engineering and related disciplines to major scientific institutions and researchers, so that they may make more informed choices for their future endeavours. They are also given training in time management, interview skills and public speaking. In previous years it has been known as the National Science Summer School (NSSS).

The Forum is fully residential and takes place during January in Canberra and Perth. All activities are fully supervised by student staff and resident Rotary counsellors. The program is extremely intensive with little time for outside activities except for meeting those people already in the program.

The most important aspect coming from the NYSF is a network of friends, colleagues and support groups throughout Australia which will be of value to participants for the whole of their lives.

The NYSF continues after January, first in the form of university seminars and industry site visits in March and April and afterwards as a long term personal network of people with common aims. You can tell if someone has been to the NYSF or NSSS by one subtle aspect of their formal wear. All will possess what is known as a “plum pudding” badge. The badge consists of the NYSF logo and is either red, green or blue, depending on the year attended.

The NYSF provides a unique experience for some 280 of Australia’s best Year 11 high school students who are interested in science. For two weeks during the summer vacation, successful awardees come together in a stimulating environment enriched by the input of acknowledged experts in science and technology. NYSF is a dynamic mix of seminars, workshops, visits to laboratories and supervised social activities. It encourages excellence, helps develop communication and interpersonal skills, teaches time management, and promotes the values of balanced lifestyles. There are two forums based in Canberra and one in Perth. Students reside at tertiary institutions and have access to university and to industry and related research staff and facilities. Most sponsoring Rotary Clubs choose to subsidise or pay in full the student fee.