

FACT SHEET

NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP



ORIGIN

This is an Outcome 14 Programme, inaugurated 4 years ago as an initiative by Minister of Sport and Recreation, Mr Fikile Mbalula during an extended strategic planning session of the sport and recreation by national and provincial departments of sport, sport confederations and various federations.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME ?

The primary objective: Develop young people by empowering them with requisite values, soft-skills and knowledge that can assist them to become responsible, conscious citizens and to strengthen their sense of patriotism and identity. Primary Objective 2: Social Cohesion, Nation Building and Improved Race relations Programme further offers the youth an opportunity

to learn and improve their own characters in a safe and conducive environment.

WHO ARE TRAILBLAZERS AND HOW ARE THEY SELECTED??

Trailblazers are all the youth that get as opportunity to take part in the National Youth Camp.

They are a non- partisan youth movement initiated back in 2012 by Sport and Recreation South Africa, its provincial departments and NGO partners with objective of growing young South Africans into worthy and able citizens.

The Trailblazer movement has three pillars that form the basis for all activities taking place at the youth camps:
Nation building – learn about and honoring our na-

tional symbols, our democracy, and our heritage. Social Cohesion – learn about your place in the community and how to contribute to happy and abundant communities.

Leadership – learn about difference styles of leadership and how to be an effective leader that makes a difference.

WHAT'S THE TARGET AUDIENCE?

Youth selected through the Olympiad System from districts to provincial level resulting in 250 participants per province in each youth camp, ranging in age groups between sixteen to eighteen years old. Due to the unique nature of the programme, not everybody gets to take part in a youth camp hence the Olympiads selection system gets conducted. This selection processes are held countrywide at district and provincial level, and applicants from selected schools who perform the best in the Olympiad have the honour to take part in the camps.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

South African youth (between ages of 16 - 22) representing the diverse cultural groupings in line with the country demographics.

WHAT IS THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF YOUTH CAMP

This is a project of Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa and as such appears on the department's Annual Performance Plan (APP). The provincial departments of sport are responsible for the logistical arrangements at the camps, the venues, and the actual running of the projects. LoveLife provides the camp stewards who act as team leaders, and also prepare the activity programs and content of the camps. Camp Navigators are managers in charge of the youth camps. These are mature adults and senior

employees of provincial departments of sport.

WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE EVENT TAKE PLACE?

This programme takes place annually during the first week of October. Takes place at camps and at venues in rural environments to ensure Trailblazers experience an authentic camp atmosphere. Venues are carefully vetted to ensure they have up-to-standard and adequate facilities to cater for the two hundred and fifty young participants per province.

WHICH ACTIVITIES DOES THE YOUTH ENGAGE IN DURING THE CAMP ?

Life building elements including character building, leadership skills, social cohesion, cultural diversity and community service.

Mornings sessions are set aside for lectures, discussions, or debates. Brainstorming sessions focusing on life building blocks lead by the Camp Stewards. They also take part in outdoor activities inclusive of swimming, obstacle courses, zip lines, team sports, and indigenous games.

Trailblazers also get the opportunity to visit a nearby village and perform community service (i.e.) old age home or church to either perform cleaning up, painting, planting trees, or being of services to community members.

TO DATE, HOW MANY YOUTH HAVE PASSED THROUGH THIS PROGRAMME?

Since its inception in 2012, thousands of young people have participated in this programme and benefited from the Trailblazer youth camps, returning well-prepared to serve their communities with practical skills they learnt at the camps.

To be part of this life building skills exercise visit our website for further details.....