



Media Release

Developing a community of dedicated young volunteer leaders over the past decade

Saturday, 30 March 2024 - The Youth Corps Leaders Commencement Ceremony today celebrated the achievements of over 200 young volunteer leaders who have successfully completed the Youth Corps Leaders Programme in 2023. Together, they implemented 27 service-learning community projects and rallied more than 600 volunteers to serve various communities, impacting over 1,000 individuals.

2 The ceremony was graced by Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law, and Chairman of the National Youth Council, who was joined by Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Law, and Chairperson of Youth Corps Singapore's Advisory Committee.

Developing young leaders with a heart for the community

3 Youth Corps Singapore was established in 2014 to champion youth volunteerism, with the Youth Corps Leaders Programme as the flagship programme to develop aspiring youth leaders (also known as Aspirants), who will help serve the various social needs of society. Participation in the programme has grown significantly over the past decade. To date, over 1,500 youth volunteer leaders from diverse backgrounds have participated in this programme.

4 A unique opportunity that helps them develop their leadership skills outside the classroom, the nine to 12-month programme allows Aspirants to develop deeper understanding and appreciation of the needs of local communities that they are serving, and to forge meaningful interactions with partners and beneficiaries. Aspirants are also guided by

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mentors, assistant mentors and community partners as they conceptualise and implement their service-learning projects.

5 After completing the programme, some youth leaders even went on to pursue careers in the social sector and start their own ground-up initiatives. For example, Anita Chan, an alumnus from the pioneer cohort, presently serves as a member in Youth Corps' Special Needs Cluster; and as a Community Peer Supporter at Project Re:ground at The Red Box, which provides a safe space where youths can seek respite from daily routines through conversations and self-care activities.

Charting the next phase of growth together

6 Youth Corps has grown significantly over the past decade, and this year marks our 10th anniversary. Beginning with 90 young volunteer leaders, we have nurtured more than 30,000 youth volunteers over the past decade, with more than 6,000 volunteers still actively serving. We have also expanded our programmes, from a single programme to over 20 programmes that cater to diverse interests and commitment levels. These include 1) leadership programmes such as Youth Corps Leaders Programme, 2) regular community service programmes such as KidsLearn and 3) bite-sized volunteering opportunities such as Beach Clean-up.

7 To help guide Youth Corps' next phase of growth, we have embarked on a year-long visioning engagement that involves the youth. Past and present leaders, and volunteers have been invited to participate in discussions and digital surveys, which will help develop our aspirational vision for the next 10 years.

8 In addition, Youth Corps will be organising the 10th Anniversary Carnival on 6 July 2024 at *SCAPE in Somerset. More details of the carnival will be shared at a later date.

- End -

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About the National Youth Council

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard and have the ability to influence and make a difference in the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit.

About Youth Corps Singapore

Youth Corps Singapore (Youth Corps) is a division of the National Youth Council (NYC). Youth Corps was launched in 2014 to champion youth volunteerism to build active citizenry and a more caring and cohesive society. Youth Corps serves as a collaboration platform between youths, community service organisations, and the wider society to ignite positive change.

About the Youth Corps Leaders Programme



The Youth Corps Leaders Programme is a nine to twelve months community leadership development programme designed for volunteer leaders-in-training aged 17-25 years old (also known as an Aspirant) to conceptualise and implement a project to address real needs on the ground. The programme also aims to develop Aspirants into multipliers who rally fellow youth to serve the communities.



The programme allows youths greater flexibility to design and customise their own leadership journey based on different social causes, partners and project pathways. Youths will be trained by Youth Corps Singapore and guided by National Agencies and/or Community Partners to implement a sustainable service-learning project tackling pressing community needs.

Through the Youth Corps Leaders Programme, Aspirants are given the opportunity to:

- Develop community leadership skills through training, mentoring and implementation of a service-learning project;
- Gain insight into national issues and challenges, and their role in shaping Singapore;
- Be empowered to lead, advocate and take action on community issues that they are passionate about;
- Learn to assess community needs and develop partnerships; and
- Learn to recruit, manage, and retain volunteers.

Youth Profiles available for interview

Name	Profile write-up
 <p>Erina Oh Wan Ying 胡婉莹 (Hu Wan Ying)</p> <p><i>Youth Corps Singapore Leaders Programme Commencement Ceremony 2024 Valedictorian</i></p> <p>English: Fluent Mandarin: Basic</p>	<p>She was part of KidsCount @ Boon Lay, which partnered with Boon Lay Youth Network to design a numeracy programme for students from disadvantaged backgrounds residing in Boon Lay.</p> <p>As one of the members spearheading the Programmes team, Erina showed great commitment and passion for the project, producing quality work. Her maturity and great sense of responsibility is evident in her empathetic approach towards her team and clients. Erina's performance significantly stood out as she consistently demonstrated strong leadership qualities, effectively motivating her team to achieve results. Her ability to navigate complex challenges with grace and determination has been instrumental in the success of the team's initiatives.</p> <p>Erina is a student from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, studying Community Development. She also volunteers as a grassroots leader in Boon Lay, managing a tuition programme called Ninja Learn where they provide tuition to lower income children.</p>
 <p>Anita Chan An Lin 陈安琳 (Chen An Lin)</p> <p><i>Youth Corps Singapore Leaders Programme Commencement Ceremony 2024 Emcee</i></p> <p><i>Youth Corps Singapore Leaders Programme Cohort 1 Leader</i></p> <p>English: <i>Fluent</i> Mandarin: <i>Conversational</i></p>	<p>Anita is a Youth Corps Leader from the pioneering batch of the Youth Corps Leaders Programme. After the programme, she pursued her studies overseas and came back to join the Special Needs Cluster in December 2019.</p> <p>During her time in the cluster, she participated in projects to plan and execute multiple programmes relating to the special needs community. She serves as one of the cluster youth leads in 2023.</p> <p>Anita is also currently part of the Project Re:ground Community Peer Supporters Programme, which she regularly volunteers as a peer supporter in the Re:ground @ Dungeon sessions. She also stepped up as a Peer Support Leader in 2022/2023 to plan cohesions for fellow peer supporters and oversee volunteer sessions by conducting briefings and debriefs.</p>

Name	Profile write-up
 <p>Sasidharan S/O Mahandra சசிதரன்</p> <p><i>Leaders Programme Cohort 29 which started in December 2022</i></p> <p>English: Fluent Tamil: Fluent</p>	<p>Sasidharan was part of Project Shine, which partnered with Rainbow Centre to promote greater inclusion and enhance social engagement among these youths through hosting biweekly engagement sessions, where members befriend and spend meaningful time with special needs clients.</p> <p>As the Co-Leader, Sasidharan demonstrated critical thinking skills, effectively guiding the team in the right direction. He has shown initiative by readily taking on additional responsibilities to support the team. He also displayed a willingness to learn and grow beyond his comfort zone. His patient and proactive approach within the team, coupled with his sense of responsibility and reliability, ensures the delivery of quality work.</p> <p>Sasidharan is currently a student from Singapore Institute of Management's University of London, majoring in Accountancy and Finance.</p>
 <p>Asiyah Begam Binte Yusuff Mohamed Yunus</p> <p><i>Leaders Programme Cohort 29 which started in December 2022</i></p> <p>English: Fluent Malay: Conversational Tamil: Conversational</p>	<p>Asiyah was part of Project We+65, which partnered with Blossom Seeds Limited to implement engagement sessions that aimed to improve the physical and emotional well-being of seniors and foster intergenerational connections.</p> <p>As the Programmes IC, Asiyah demonstrated ability to think on her feet, and consider diverse perspectives in decision-making. Asiyah was also proactive in offering help and support to her fellow team members. Grounded by her guiding principles and values, she stands out as an Aspirant with potential for greater leadership.</p> <p>Asiyah is currently a student from National University of Singapore, majoring in Life Sciences. After completing the Leaders Programme, Asiyah continued to serve in Youth Corps as an Associate Facilitator for Cohort 32 of the Youth Corps Leaders Programme.</p>