



22 March 2025

# Youth Corps Singapore Launches Vision to Grow Youth Volunteerism in The Coming Decade

The National Youth Council's volunteering division, Youth Corps Singapore (Youth Corps), announced its new vision at the Youth Corps Commencement Ceremony on 22 March 2025, and celebrated the achievements of nearly 200 youth volunteer leaders who successfully completed the Youth Corps Leaders Programme (YCLP) in 2024.

The Ceremony was graced by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State (MOS) for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Minister of State for the Ministry of Digital Development and Information & Ministry of Health, and Chairperson of the Youth Corps Advisory Committee.

# SG60 and a Democracy of Deeds

- In conjunction with Youth Corps' 10th Anniversary last year, Youth Corps embarked on a year-long visioning exercise to shape its direction for the next decade through a series of visioning engagements, focus group discussions and digital surveys, reaching out to more than 30,000 past and present Youth Corps volunteers, leaders and the wider youth population.
- A total of 4,500 vision statements were collected from youths, who articulated their aspirations and values for Youth Corps. Youths developed the new Youth Corps Vision "Ignite Change, Grow Good Together", which will guide Youth Corps through its next decade of youth volunteerism. True to the spirit of SG60, which rallies Singaporeans to do something for others and the community, the new vision signals the youths' ambition to build a "democracy of deeds". They envisage the Youth Corps as a vibrant and inclusive community, where youths from different backgrounds come together to make a positive difference, and create ripples of good in Singapore and beyond.

### Three Key Thrusts of the Youth Corps Vision

- 5 The next phase for Youth Corps will involve increasing the impact of youth volunteerism, while strengthening the inclusiveness and diversity of volunteering opportunities available. This will be done through:
  - Expanding reach to enhance diversity of youth volunteers from different institutes of higher learning and youth organisations. For example, Youth Corps will be partnering the Nanyang Polytechnic School of Business Management to weave volunteering opportunities into its curriculum. Students taking the Teaching Enterprise Programme will volunteer with Youth Corps and learn more about the social and community space beyond their course of study. Youth Corps also recently started working with Emaan Catalyst to provide opportunities for Malay/Muslim groups and students to volunteer in Singapore and beyond.
  - <u>Deepening youth contribution</u> in the community and strengthening leadership pathways, to allow volunteers to contribute to national needs. For example, Youth Corps will be enhancing HealthStart, a community health care programme in partnership with Tri-Generational Homecare and Singapore General Hospital. This programme is designed to promote well-being among seniors, with mentoring from healthcare mentors and elearning modules developed by healthcare professionals to enable youth volunteers to gain practical skills and a deeper understanding of Singapore's healthcare system.
  - Expanding regional youth volunteerism opportunities and exchanges with other youths
    in ASEAN, China, and India. Currently, there are about 2,400 youths, who take part in
    more than 100 Youth Expedition Projects (YEP) annually. We will create more
    opportunities for Singapore youths to volunteer together with local youths in ASEAN,
    China and India to forge friendships and connections.
- Youth Corps will also make volunteering opportunities more accessible through bitesized opportunities on DISCOVER: Civic Action, an online portal for youths to find volunteering opportunities and track their service hours.

# Rallying the next generation of youths to do good

Youth Corps Aspirants are conferred as Youth Corps Leaders upon the successful completion of the YCLP, a nine to twelve months community leadership development programme designed for volunteer leaders-in-training to conceptualise and implement projects to address real needs on the ground. During the 2024 run of the programme, Aspirants led 21 service-learning community projects, rallied about 700 youth volunteers to serve various causes including seniors, persons with special needs and environment and

sustainability, and impacted more than 1,000 individuals. As Youth Corps Leaders, they will

continue to deepen their contributions by leading their own initiatives, becoming Assistant

Mentors for future YCLP cohorts or joining the various cause-based and skills-based Youth

Corps clusters.

8 Youth Corps Leaders play a crucial role in rallying other youths to contribute to society.

In 2024 alone, more than 8,000 Youth Corps volunteers and leaders contributed more than

65,000 hours of service to the community, impacting about 5,000 individuals in causes such

as caring for seniors, children, people with special needs and the community.

9 The Youth Corps visioning exercise is part of the SG60 youth engagements, which will

continue throughout 2025, allowing youths to connect with others and take action to build their

shared future. These contribute towards the development of a SG Youth Plan – a youth action

plan that includes plans supporting the aspirations of youths to create a Singapore they want

to see, as well as initiatives that can support youth development and enable them to be the

best version of themselves.

10 Visit the SG Youth Plan website (<a href="www.youthplan.gov.sg">www.youthplan.gov.sg</a>) to find out more about how

youths can play a part as a contributor and changemaker.

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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.

3

#### Youth Profiles Available for Interview

#### Name

# Profile Write-up



Boopathi Priyanka, 19
English: Fluent
Tamil: Basic

Priyanka's volunteering journey began with Mission X, a three-day community leadership camp, in June 2023, where under her facilitator's guidance, she discovered her **passion for community service**. This experience motivated her to join the one-year Youth Corps Leaders Programme, where she deliberately pushed beyond her comfort zone to develop her leadership capabilities.

Her leadership style is characterised by proactive event coordination and skilled team management. Priyanka's diplomatic approach and clear communication have proven invaluable in working with various stakeholders, particularly in projects involving **children's welfare**. Her ability to maintain team focus while fostering collaboration has consistently led to successful outcomes.

Following her involvement in the YCLP, she joined the Facilitation Pathway to develop herself as a facilitator. Priyanka also actively volunteers at Youth Corps' community service events and recently rallied her teammates to join her in KidsLearn, a regular children literacy programme. Her cheerful demeanour and genuine interest in others' stories make her particularly effective in volunteer work. As she prepares to graduate and pursue further education at SUSS, SIM, or SIT, Priyanka's transformation from casual participant to committed community leader demonstrates her remarkable growth and dedication to service.



Lee Min Zhe Donald, 20 English: Fluent Mandarin: Basic

Lee Min Zhe Donald, a Year 2 student of Temasek Polytechnic, is **passionate about serving seniors**. When he was still studying in ITE College East, he discovered his passion for serving the community. He joined Youth Corps as a Volunteer Befriender in the YCLP Cohort 29 Neighbour Cares project in 2023 to support isolated seniors, built meaningful relationships and engaged them in activities. Inspired by his desire to make an even greater impact, Donald decided to take a step further by joining the YCLP Cohort 32 to take on a leadership role in the same project. He took on the responsibility of training new volunteers, designing impactful programmes and working closely with Care Corner to rally his peers to volunteer.



Nur Aliyah Binte Jefri,19 English: Fluent Malay: Basic

Aliyah, a Maritime Business student at Singapore Polytechnic, is **passionate about youth development and community service**. As a participant in the YCLP at Project Dream Big, she discovered her passion for working with youths-at-risk. She joined the programme to make a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable young people, collaborating closely with community partner Trybe.

Beyond her work with Project Dream Big, Aliyah also contributed to broader discussions on youth issues as a member of the #JobHacks Youth Panel. There, she articulated the concerns of students preparing to enter the workforce, providing valuable insights on issues such as job market readiness and the importance of international exposure.



K.E. Khavi Varshini, 20 English: Fluent Tamil: Basic

Khavi is presently studying at Nanyang Technological University and has a **strong passion for empowering children and youth**. As part of YCLP, Khavi participated in the KidsCount project, which is a collaboration with Boon Lay Youth Network to teach numeracy and literacy skills and provide mentorship to children from low-income families. She believes that learning must be fun and engaging to spark the passion to learn. Khavi and her team therefore designed and introduced origami energisers in between worksheets. This small change kept the students engaged, increased interaction between the children and volunteers, and boosted the children's confidence and social skills



Aqil Hebry Bin Mohamad Farid, 20 English: Fluent Malay: Basic

Hebry's volunteering journey began in 2018 when he was13. He enrolled in SHINE Children and Youth Services' Youth Community Outreach Patrol (Youth COP), a programme with the Singapore Police Force aimed at developing crime prevention leaders and addressing juvenile delinquency through early intervention. During the programme, Hebry conducted public outreach on crime prevention while receiving mentorship from a social worker who helped nurture his potential.

In 2022, Hebry joined the pioneering batch of Youth ALIVE!, a partnership between SHINE and Youth Corps Singapore to immerse Youth COP graduates into the Youth Corps ecosystem. By getting exposed to bite-sized volunteering programmes and a 4-day Mission X camp, Hebry went on to lead 'Silver Connects', a project that brought meaningful engagement to seniors at Orange Valley Senior Activity Centre.

After completing Youth ALIVE! in December 2023, he enrolled in the YCLP in 2024. There, he partnered with Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore to spearhead 'Project Pals' with other Aspirants, creating enriching experiences for children with special needs.

Today, as he prepares to be conferred as a Youth Corps Leader at the Commencement Ceremony 2025, Hebry continues to serve both organisations that shaped his journey. As a member of Youth Corps' Ambassadors Team, he channels his public speaking skills into various community initiatives. His enduring connection with SHINE sees him mentoring Youth COP juniors and supporting the STAR Children's programme, efforts that earned him SHINE's 'Volunteer Long Service Award'.

From crime prevention advocate to community leader, Hebry's volunteering journey exemplifies how early exposure to community service can foster a strong contribution to society.



**Eileen Tan**English: Fluent

Eileen joined the Youth Corps Singapore Special Needs Cluster (SNC) in 2023 with a deep-seated desire to **serve Persons with Special Needs and advocate for awareness and inclusion.** She believes that individuals with disabilities like herself, can serve just like everyone else, albeit in different ways, and strives to create a more inclusive and understanding society for all.

Eileen has been actively involved in several youth-led projects such as the 'Big Brother Big Sister 7.0' project, where volunteers participate in activities over several Saturdays with children with special needs to offer respite for their caregivers. This is a signature project of SNC and has been running for seven years. Over the years, Eileen, together with past and current volunteers in the SNC have formed friendships and build a community of care with the children and their caregivers.

Beyond SNC, she joined the YCLP last year and together with her team Project SHINE, she works closely with MINDS to serve youth with Special Needs and plan activities for them. In her capacity, she helps to plan biweekly sessions that facilitates meaningful interactions among the youths.

