**Youth Leadership – Important Information**

Youth Leadership will build leadership capability and skills by connecting you with real-world conservation issues. You will also learn how to inspire and motivate others.

The program runs for 7 months (12 days + graduation) and includes workshops, seminars, mentor sessions and hands-on activities. Here’s everything you need to know.

**Program Dates**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module** | **Date/s** | **School Term / Holidays** | **Topic** |
| Module 1 | 19 - 20 March | Term 1 | Identity and Belonging |
| Module 2 | 31 March - 1 April | School holidays | Leadership 101 |
| Module 3 | 19 June | Term 2 | Design Thinking Hack *Teachers are invited to attend this day* |
| Module 4 | 29 June - 3 July | School holidays | Impact Project – Marine Conservation |
| Module 5 | 22 - 23 September | School holidays | Next Steps |
| Graduation | 8 October 5pm | Term 4 | Graduation  *Teachers and family members are invited to attend this day* |

**Where is Youth Leadership being held?**

**Most of the Youth Leadership program will be hosted at Melbourne Zoo.**

We will also go on excursions to other locations! On these days, we will meet at Melbourne Zoo so we can jump on a private bus.

**What are the start and finish times?**

**Each day will start at 10am and finish at 3pm.**

If we are going on an excursion, we’ll let you know if there are any time changes.

**Where should I go when I arrive at the Zoo?**

**Meet the Zoo team outside the Main Entrance of Melbourne Zoo (on Elliott Avenue) at 10am.**

Note: there are two Zoo entrances – if you are arriving by train, walk around the Zoo wall and up the hill to the Main Entrance.

**Who will be running Youth Leadership?**

Youth Leadership is run by trained Zoo teachers. You will get to know them, hear their stories, meet other Zoo staff and learn from industry mentors outside the Zoo.

**How many other people will be part of my program?**

Up to 29 other teenagers will be joining you.

**What should I wear?**

Wear whatever you feel most comfortable in! Don’t forget to dress for the weather. Sometimes we will be outside. Don’t forget your jacket if rain is forecast or your sunscreen and a hat if it’s a sunny day.

**What happens if there is bad weather?**

Youth Leadership will go ahead unless there is dangerous weather (we’ll call you if this happens). Melbourne Zoo is an all-weather venue and there are plenty of places for us to work inside if it’s raining.

**What should I bring?**

Bring your snacks, lunch and a drink bottle. You can also buy food and drink at the Zoo’s cafes.

On Day 1 you will receive a welcome pack, program notes, a journal and pens.

**Do I need to do any preparation before Day 1 (March 19th)?**

Nope – simply arrive on the day and we will help you get started.

**What happens if I miss a day?**

Let us know ASAP if you will be missing a day. We will book in a catch-up so you don’t miss out.

**How many hours of project work will I be doing?**

During Term 3, you will be working on an ‘Impact Project’. You will probably spend a minimum of 15 hours at school or at home getting your project up and running.



**Is Youth Leadership accredited?**

This is a non-accredited program and has no connection to an

external accreditation or professional body. You will get a certificate

when you finish and you can list it on your CV.

**How is my teacher involved in Youth Leadership?**

Your endorsing teacher is your support and mentor back at school. They are invited to be part of the Design Thinking Hack on June 19 so they can help you with your Impact Project. At the end of the program, your endorsing teacher is invited to attend your graduation and celebrate your success.

**Will you be able to help me if I need assistance?**

Yes, of course – we’re here to support you. Before you start, we will ask you to tell us what you need so that we can make sure you have an awesome learning experience.

**Will I get a chance to explore Melbourne Zoo?**

Yes! You will explore the Zoo as part of the Youth Leadership program. If you would like to explore the Zoo by yourself before 10am or after 3pm, check with your parent/guardian if this is OK.

**Will I get Zoos Victoria membership?**

Yes! You will be given a Zoos Victoria membership so you can visit Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo anytime you’d like.

**Why can’t I touch an animal?**

At Zoos Victoria, we pride ourselves on the way we care for animals. We lead the world in Zoo animal welfare and we give animals choice and control. Because of this, you will spend time hanging out with some of the coolest animals at the Zoo but you won’t be able to touch them.

**Where will I store my bag and personal belongings during the program?**

You will have your bag and personal belongings with you at all times. If you’d like to leave them inside while you go out into the Zoo for lunch, we’ll make sure they’re safe and secure.

**Where will I be eating lunch?**

You will have lunch breaks each day and there are lots of great places to eat outside.

Our favourite spots are the cafés, pavilions, Japanese Gardens and lawn areas.

