Laois Youth Volunteers & Laois Young Creatives Scheme 2020

loetb

LAOIS PARTNERSHIP COMPANY

INFORMATION BOOKLET

LYVs & LYCs

Due to Covid19, this summer of 2020 has provided restricted work opportunities to college students during their college breaks. Therefore this summer has provided fewer opportunities to students to further develop and demonstrate interpersonal and workplace skills. For those students without summer jobs, Summer 2020 risks being a "gap" within their CVs.

However Volunteerism and associated activities can develop equivalent skill sets.

The LYV&LYC initiative seeks to:

- Recognise volunteerism occurring among the 18-25 year olds
- Encourage more people to volunteer from that age group
- Recognise Creative work being undertaken this summer among the 18-25 year olds
- Recognise local research work being undertaken this summer among the 18-25 year olds
- Encourage Creative and Research work and to provide platforms to capture & display these works
- Provide an appropriate recognition for CV purposes

The initiative will be managed and co-ordinated jointly by **Laois County Council, Laois Partnership Company, LOETB.**

The above partners will work closely with Laois PPN and Foróige in promoting the initiative.

WE WILL WORK WITH:

- ★ **Existing local volunteer organisations**
- ★ **Tidy Towns**
- ★ **Cemetery Committees**
- ★ **Meals on wheels etc**
- ★ **Historical/Heritage Societies**
- ★ **Biodiversity Groups/Climate**
- ★ **Artistic Organisations**
- ★ **Voluntary Sporting Organisations**

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL WILL:

- **Increase by 20% this year's annual grant to individual Tidy Towns groups** who engage at least 5 new student Volunteers in the 18-25 age group for the purposes of this initiative.
  (Some discretion may apply on numbers engaged, subject to local circumstances, with the size of the Group a determining factor).

- **Increase by 20% this year's annual grant to individual Cemetery Committees** who engage at least 5 new student Volunteers in the 18-25 age group for the purposes of this initiative.
  (Some discretion may apply on numbers engaged, subject to local circumstances, with the size of the Group a determining factor).

- **Create a prize fund (bursary fund) of €2500 for Research and Creative projects and for "Young Volunteer of the Summer"** as follows:
  (a) Individual project in Arts sphere
  (b) Collaborative project in Arts/Communications/ICT sphere
  (c) Biodiversity Project
  (d) Local History research project
  (e) Volunteer of the Summer

In the categories (a) to (d) there will be a first prize of €350 and a runner's up prize of €150; in Category (e) there will be a single prize of €500.

Nominations for the prize funds to be made by the sponsoring Community/Voluntary bodies.

Students and Groups wishing to participate in the scheme must register with the Laois Volunteer Information Service. Details set out on the table below. A Volunteer may register with more than one sponsoring body (eg. a Tidy Towns and a Biodiversity Group).

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS SHOULD BE COMPLETED NO LATER THAN MONDAY 20TH JULY, 2020.

WHAT MUST I DO TO PARTICIPATE?

If I am an Individual Volunteer	If I am a Community/Voluntary Group
Please note: While Volunteering is open to people of all ages, please note that this initiative is aimed at adults in the age group 18-25 years living in Co Laois.	*Please note: While Volunteering is open to people of all ages, please note that this initiative is aimed at adults in the age group 18-25 years living in Co Laois.*
Firstly you must register your interest with Laois Volunteering Information Service Their website registration link is : **https://www.i-vol.ie/your-volunteer-profile/**	Their website link for Community/Voluntary Groups is **https://volunteerlaois.ie/register-your-organisation/**
Laois Volunteering Information Service will provide all interested candidates with a list of organisations who are accepting summer volunteers on their programmes. Once you decide which group / groups you wish to volunteer with, you will be furnished with the contact details of this group and must make the initial contact to express interest. Volunteers are also welcome to source their own summer volunteering placement but this community/voluntary group must also register with Laois Volunteering Information Service *(if not already registered)*.	You must be open during Summer 2020 to accepting Volunteers in the age group 18-25 years, to work in a voluntary capacity with your community group, and to be responsible for the volunteer during the agreed placement period.
When you have been accepted by a Community/ Voluntary Group as a Volunteer, the Secretary of the Community Group should email **youthvolunteers@laoiscoco.ie** with your name & contact details, and the name & contact of the group. **Please note this information may be shared/checked with Laois Volunteering Information Service for verification purposes.**	When you have accepted a relevant Volunteer the Secretary of the Community/Voluntary Group should email **youthvolunteers@laoiscoco.ie** with the Volunteer name & contact details, the name & contact of the group. **Please note this information may be shared/checked with Laois Volunteering Information Service for verification purposes.**
At the end of the summer volunteer period (15th September 2020) you should complete a short Validation Report outlining the voluntary work undertaken over the summer. Have this report validated by a member of the Community/Voluntary Group, and submit it to **youthvolunteers@laoiscoco.ie**	At the end of the summer volunteer period (15th September 2020) you should sign off on a short Validation Report prepared by the Volunteer outlining the voluntary work undertaken over the summer.

WHAT MUST I DO TO PARTICIPATE?

If I am an Individual Volunteer	If I am a Community/Voluntary Group
After receipt of the Validation Report, you will be awarded an official certificate confirming your participation in the scheme.	The Community/ Voluntary group should consider whether they wish to nominate any Volunteer under this scheme for "Young Volunteer of the Summer".
If your work involved an individual project in the Arts sphere, a Collaborative project in Arts/Communications/ICT sphere, a Biodiversity Project, or a Local History research project, you may also submit your project for consideration for a prize under this scheme. It is intended that a number of the projects submitted would be displayed through the Council's Library Service. You should keep your own copy of any project work submitted.	If the volunteer work involved an individual project in Arts sphere, a Collaborative project in Arts/Communications/ICT sphere, a Biodiversity Project, or a Local History research project, the Community Group may also nominate a Volunteer under these categories for a prize award.
	If you are a Tidy Towns Committee or a local Cemetery committee who receive annual funding from Laois County Council, and have sponsored at least 5 Young Volunteers over the summer, you can apply to Laois County Council to receive up to an additional 20% on top of your normal revenue grant from Laois County Council towards the work of these Committees. There may be some discretion applied with regard to the number of volunteers engaged, subject to local circumstances.

REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL MONDAY 20TH JULY, 2020.