Riverland ORSR Future Sport Leaders Program
Frequently Asked Questions

40 students between the ages of 15 and 17 from across South Australia will participate in the inaugural Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing Young Leaders Program. 10 Riverland students can be selected. This is a fully funded program, at no cost to participants.

Key highlights of the program include:

Learn: Understand the inner workings of a sporting club, the issues affecting sport and how to make sporting clubs more accessible to the community.
Develop your communication skills, leadership and emotional intelligence and undertake sporting medical support training.

Experience: Get first-hand experience within a community sporting club and apply your skills and learning practically.

The course will consist of 4 elements - 10 SACE credits awarded upon completion.
1. Physical Recreation - 3 months of Physical Activity (1 hour per week for 3 months)
2. Voluntary Service - 3 months of volunteering at a community organisation/sporting club (1 hour per week for 3 months)
3. Skills Development - Workshops - including:

- How to increase participation in sport (delivered by ORSR)
- How does a sporting club run (delivered by ORSR)
- Improving your communication in a sporting context (delivered by Youth Opportunities)
- Developing your life skills and emotional intelligence (delivered by Global Community Sports)
- Maintaining your member's health (delivered by SA Sports Medicine Association)

Plus 1 of either:

- Community Coaching Essential Skills (Delivered by Australian Sports Commission)
- Community Officiating Essential Skills (Delivered by Australian Sports Commission).

We will try and have all workshops delivered in person; the Australian Sports Commission is an online course.

Workshops to occur between Wednesday 1 July 2026 and Friday 30 April 2027

4. Adventurous Journey - Overnight stay at AFL Max, tour of new ORSR/SASI headquarters

How is the 1 hour a week of physical activity structured?

Participants choose their own activities within a local Riverland sporting or recreation club. If they're already connected to a club, they can continue there. Otherwise, they can select any approved local club. This flexibility allows students to fit the activity around their existing commitments.

Can volunteering be in any local club? Or only specific organisations?

Yes, volunteering can be done in any Riverland sport or recreation club. There are no restrictions to specific organisations.

For the skills development aspect, what kind of coaching/officiating training is available? Are there accredited certificates?

Facilitators will come to Riverland to deliver hands-on workshops covering coaching and officiating essentials. There are also online modules. The training is designed to be practical and valuable for future roles in sport. Participants can choose to complete one or both of the coaching and the officiating training.

Coaching course:
https://www.ausport.gov.au/coaching/community/education/community-coaching-essential-skills

The accredited certificate is the Australian Sports Commission's Community Coaching Essential Skills.

Officiating course:

https://www.ausport.gov.au/officiating/education/essential-skills

The accredited certificate is the Australian Sports Commission's Community Officiating Essential Skills.

How flexible are the timeframes if schoolwork gets intense? How strict are the weekly requirements — what happens if you miss a week due to exams, illness, or sport commitments?

The program is designed to be flexible. While the weekly structure is encouraged (1 hour/week for 3 months of the learning modules, and 1 hour per week for 3 months for the Physical Activity), there is understanding around school, sport, and health commitments. Students can catch up or adjust their schedule as needed, for example, you might miss training for one week but can make it up the next week. Your hours would need to equal the total hours required at the end of the 9 months.

How long does the program go for?

Typically 9 months, but participants have the flexibility of up to a year to complete all aspects of the program.

How are the SACE points earned — is there a project or portfolio to submit?

There is no project or portfolio to submit, rather the 10 SACE points are awarded upon full completion of the program. This is signed off by the Duke of Ed, who then liaise with the school to award the SACE points.

Is the program officially recognised under the Duke of Ed framework, or do participants need to do extra work to count it?

No extra work is required. The program is fully aligned with the Duke of Edinburgh framework.

Are there any costs involved (uniform, transport, training fees), or is everything free?

The program is completely free. There are no out-of-pocket costs for students or their families.

Will there be mentors or coordinators guiding us through the program? Will each participant have a mentor or program coordinator to check in with?

The club that the participant is connected to will have an official contact, coordinating the participant's meaningful volunteer opportunities that verify their participation.

In addition, structure and support from the Riverland Connected and Active Communities Project Officer will also be provided.

Is the program inclusive of students who aren't into sports — e.g. can the physical activity be something like walking, dance, or gym?

The physical activity must be done through a local club. Dance is eligible if it's club-affiliated. Activities like gym or walking are not eligible unless they're part of a recognised club (e.g. gym as part of training for netball/football etc, yacht club, orienteering, scouts).

Is there a set schedule/calendar or is it more self-paced?

The skills development sessions / learning component of the program are scheduled based on all participating student's availability. There is flexibility to catch up if a session is missed due to other school or work commitments.

The physical and volunteering elements of the program are self-paced and designed to fit around school and sport commitments.

What does the "skills development" aspect of the program look like — is it workshops, online modules, or hands-on training?

It includes:

- Workshops delivered in person by accredited facilitators
- Hands-on training in coaching and officiating
- Online modules to support learning and flexibility

In addition to the above, toward the end of the program participants will take part in an 'Adventurous Journey' - a group excursion to a sports-related venue (such as AFL Max or SASI, with the exact location to be confirmed). This experience will combine physical activity with leadership development modules, offering a fun and immersive way to apply their skills in a new environment.

What kind of roles might the volunteering component include?

Volunteering roles can include:

- Coaching juniors
- Officiating matches (not trainings)
- Assisting with club events
- Helping with administration
- Supporting game-day operations (e.g. bake stalls, set-up and pack-down of game days)
- Equipment management

Volunteering activities will be logged via a Duke of Edinburgh app.

What opportunities might be available upon completion of the program, such as mentoring, further training, or employment pathways?

As this is a pilot program, post-program pathways are still being developed. However, there are plans to explore future opportunities including mentoring younger leaders, access to advanced training, and potential employment pathways.

Participants will also receive formal recognition from the Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing, be celebrated at an end-of-year presentation or graduation ceremony, and have the option to pursue the Silver or Gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

For further information contact:

Travis O'Shaughnessy - Connected and Active Communities Project Officer

toshaughnessy@lwdc.sa.gov.au

0447 750 529

Nominations close Sunday 14 June at Midnight

Nominate now via the online form HERE