



Young ICT Explorers
2014
Information Pack

General Information Pack for the Young ICT Explorers competition

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About Young ICT Explorers

Young ICT Explorers is a competition for school students to produce their best Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) related project. ICT is constantly evolving and we consider it to be an enabler of different activities and objectives for many areas of societies all over the world. For instance, computer games can be designed to educate people on a topic and websites are widely used to communicate and inform people all over the world. Whilst the simple mobile phone has evolved from being just a telephone to a multipurpose device with features like touch screens, global positioning and mobile apps etc. The Young ICT Explorers competition aims to inspire and encourage school students to consider ICT as a career opportunity and gain a greater understanding of the diverse possibilities available through ICT.

As a student...

... In the school years **4 to 12** attending a school in **Queensland**,

Or years **3 to 12** attending a school in **New South Wales, ACT or Victoria** in 2014,

You are eligible to participate in Young ICT Explorers. Just ask your teacher to register your school so your team can take part, register by the 26th May 2014. While you can work by yourself it is recommended you create a team of up to 4 students as projects require a lot of time. All of your team members must be in the same age division (see 'Divisions' section below). Once your school is registered and you have your team, the rest is up to you. Produce your best project related to ICT and submit before 7th July 2014. Remember to check the Young ICT Explorers website for more information and ideas on projects you could enter.

As a teacher...

... at a school in Queensland , New South Wales, ACT or Victoria you're invited to register groups of up to 4 students per project to participate in Young ICT Explorers. Registration deadline is 26th of May 2014. All of the team members must be in the same age division (see 'Divisions' section below). You can enter multiple teams from your school into the competition. All teams must submit their project documents by the 7th July 2014. Please have a look at the FAQ section or don't hesitate to send us an email to: yicteteam@gmail.com if you have further questions.

Divisions

Students can compete in project teams of up to 4 students in divisions of the following school years:

Queensland

Years: 4 – 5

Years: 6 – 7

Years: 8 – 9

Years: 10 – 12

New South Wales, Victoria and ACT

Years: 3 - 4

Years: 5 - 6

Years: 7 – 8

Years: 9 – 10

Years: 11 – 12

Subject areas

We have kept the scope of the competition broad to encourage as much creativity as possible through the use of ICT. We don't want to limit possibilities for projects that are new and unheard of before. We welcome all types of projects providing they have a clear link to ICT.

To give you some guidance, projects might come under some of the following subject areas:

- Science
- Engineering
- The Environment and Sustainability
- Business
- Entertainment

Need more ideas? See some of last year's project at our website www.youngictexplorers.net.au.

Sample project topics

Projects in previous competitions have included some of the following topics:

- iPhone/mobile phone applications
- Computer games
- Websites
- Digital media
- Short films and animations
- Robots

Awards

In each school year category (division) prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Previous years prizes have been

- 1st prize – iPod touch® for each team member*
- 2nd prize – iPod nano® for each team member*
- 3rd prize - Voucher for each team member*

In addition, the school of each 1st prize winning project in all year categories (divisions) will receive an additional prize for the school.*

****(prizes are subject to change at any given notice)***

A trophy will also be awarded in each division to the winning team's school. All accepted entrants will receive a certificate of commendation for their participation in the event. Lunch will be provided for teachers and students entered in the events.

Organisational details

Registration process

We've established a new registration process including the following steps:

1. As a teacher, from the 20th February 2014 you can register your school and an approximate number of teams you may have using **our online registration tool**. Please note the last day for registration is the 26th May 2014.
2. Once your school is registered, teachers can then nominate their school teams, upload their project details and any attachments by the **7th of July 2014**. (Submission deadline). Please submit a ZIP file including the following items:
3. We don't need to see the final version of the project in the online submission (you have until the Event date (if invited) to keep working on it. What we recommend uploading is
 - A detailed description/report of your project.
It is recommended to use the report structure outlined on page 7.
 - Release and permission forms.
You can find these documents on our website in the download section. Please enter the requested details, scan the documents and add the scans to the ZIP file.
 - Add all additional files and details regarding your project to the ZIP file as well.

If you need help to generate a PDF or a ZIP file, please have a look at the download page of the Young ICT Explorers website or contact us for more assistance.

Conditions of Entry

Entry to the competition is free. In order to enter the competition we require students to:

- Be enrolled and attending a school in Queensland, New South Wales, ACT or Victoria.
- Enter in the appropriate school years category.
- Ensure their teacher registers their team on or before 26th May 2014 (registration deadline) on our website <http://www.youngictexplorers.net.au>
- Have their teacher or a representative person submit their project, which is clearly linked to ICT. Projects without a clearly demonstrable link to ICT will be ineligible to enter and these entrants will be notified.
- Submit a report on their project that is no more than 15 pages long and not greater than 10 MB in size. Entries with missing reports or reports that exceed these criteria will not be accepted. Please see below for further details.
- Submit their project before 7th July 2014. Submissions will not be accepted after the final date of submission and early submissions are appreciated for processing purposes.

- Be invited and must accept their invitation to the judging event in order to present their projects. Those who do not accept the invitation will not be able to present.
- Present their own work. Use of material not produced by the team or individual responsible for the entry which is not duly acknowledged through standard referencing, will be deemed as plagiarism. Any entry deemed guilty of plagiarism will be disqualified and will be ineligible for the judging event and prizes.
- Enter in groups consisting of 1 to 4 students. A team cannot exceed 4 students. All team members must be in the school year group for which they are entering.
- Submit uncorrupted files. Young ICT Explorers cannot judge or take responsibility for files that are incomplete or corrupted. **Projects must only have material that is suitable for all ages, inappropriate or offensive projects will not be accepted.** The decision of the judges is final.

If invited and to be eligible for the major prizes, the participants will be required to attend the judging event. In the event that a project team consists of only one team member and he/she is unable to attend the judging event, a class mate is able to present on his/her behalf.

Submission Guidelines:

- Once your team is registered, entries should be uploaded to the competition website on or before midnight the day the submission deadline ends.
- Each entry must include a written report on the project. Reports **must not exceed 15 pages** in total.
- Acceptable file types: mp3, mpg, avi, jpg, mov, swf, flv, mp4, html, doc, docx, pdf, ppt, pptx, xls, xlsx, iWork & iLife file formats.
- Due to the possibility of viruses, **unacceptable file types are:** exe, bat, com, msi
- If you wish to submit another file type, please contact the Young ICT Explorers Organizing Team via yicteteam@gmail.com , to ensure that it can be assessed.
- The ZIP file containing the project and report files cannot exceed 10 MB respectively.
- **Projects must only consist of material that is suitable for all ages.**

Entries that cannot be uploaded should be clearly represented in the report through images and diagrams. Students also have the option of submitting a video or screen-cam (in one of the file types specified above) showing their project being used. Students who are unable to upload their actual project will not be penalized during the short-listing process, provided that it is clearly presented in the report. Those invited to the judging event will then have the opportunity to present their project using their own equipment, i.e. laptops & speakers.

The main report must be submitted in one of the following formats:

- Portable Document File (pdf)
- Microsoft Word (doc/docx)

Report Structure

Please note that this is only a recommendation and adherence is not compulsory:

- Title page
 - Your Name/ name of your group members.
 - Name of your project.
 - School name.
- Introduction
 - What is your project?
 - How did you choose your project?
 - Problems you encountered.
- Describe your project design and features
 - How does it work?
 - Use clearly labeled images, photos, diagrams and screenshots.
 - Include any research findings you may have.
 - Problems you encountered.
- User Manual/Instructions
 - How do you use your project?
- Conclusion.
 - What did you learn?
 - What would you do differently the next time?

Judging Criteria

Each entry will be judged according to the following marking criteria:

1. **Creativity and Innovation** – How unique and imaginative is your idea?
 - Is it new and innovative? Analyze the situation, identify a need, propose and develop a solution for the defined need.
 - Develop a brief that identifies a simple criteria relating to requirements that make it useful and attractive.
 - Consider labeled drawings, modeling, storyboarding, using digital technologies and multimedia for presentations.

2. **Quality and Completeness** – how well does the project do what it is proposed to do?
 - Justify and apply methodical approaches to planning, designing or implementing solutions.
 - Demonstrate competency in a range of practical skills appropriate to the project.
 - Apply and explain an understanding of the nature and function of information technologies in your project.
 - Are objectives in the project met and functions as a working product?

3. **Level of Difficulty** – how difficult is your work?
 - For example, materials, tools, software and equipment used in conducting investigations.
 - Develop and apply a plan and sequence for production taking into account, time, resources and correct techniques.
 - Implementation of a working product.

4. **Documentation** – how much effort you have put into your report, posters and your presentation?
 - Investigate questions and predictions by collecting and analyzing data, suggest explanations for findings and reflect on the processes undertaken.
 - Use methods to thoroughly document the development of the project.
 - Use creative thinking techniques including brainstorming, sketching and modeling.

Projects entered encourage:

- Communication and information processing skills.
- Ways in which information systems will meet emerging needs.
- Students to select and apply appropriate research and problem solving skills.
- Ways to apply and explain an understanding of the nature and function of information technologies to the specific practical situation.
- Ways to examine and apply appropriate documentation techniques related to the management of the project.

Competition's Key Dates

Registration deadline: 26th May 2014

Please register your school before this date.

Submission deadline: 7th July 2014 this date is the last day you can submit your project results.

Judging Event (by invitation only) Please find details of the judging events on our website

www.youngictexplorers.net.au

Selected projects will be invited to our judging events in the respective states, at our partnering host Universities.

Judging Event

Upon close of submissions entries will be reviewed according to the conditions of entry and the judging criteria. Shortlisted entrants will then be notified by mail and invited to the competition judging event to present their projects. On the day there will be a presentation ceremony, where you will get certificates and for the winners great prizes.

Students will be allocated a booth space to display their project and present to a judging panel using **their own display equipment** i.e. laptop computers, speakers etc...

A presentation ceremony will be held at the end of the judging event to present certificates and prizes to the participants and winners for 2014.

Contact Details

Please direct all further enquiries to the Young ICT Explorers Organising Team yicteteam@gmail.com

NSW Contact: Travis: travis.joy@sap.com

ACT Contact: Katya: katya@groupx.edu.au

Victoria Contact: Therese: tkeane@swin.edu.au

Qld Contact: Steven Turner: Steven.Turner@nicta.com.au

We look forward to your participation in this competition!

<http://www.youngictexplorers.net.au/cms/>