



Staffordshire Wildlife Trust



YESS '19

Youth Environment Summit Staffordshire 11th April 2019



Thursday 11th April 2019
10am-14.00pm
Stafford Council Chambers

In association with



Event information

In 2019, your local wildlife charity, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, turns 50 years old. This Youth Environmental Summit - Staffordshire is the first in a series of events throughout the year to celebrate the work of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust over the last 50 years.

The Youth Council of Staffordshire have chosen the environment as one of their core issues to focus on in 2019, and so the Youth Environmental Summit was born!

This event has been made possible by kind support from Veolia, University of Wolverhampton, sben, Michelin, JCB, Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, Southern Staffordshire Community Energy, SCVYS and Staffordshire County Council.

When and where is the Summit?

Youth Environmental Summit will be held on Thursday 11th April 2019 in the Council Chambers, County Buildings, Stafford, where our county councillors debate issues and make decisions.

10am-10.30am – Arrive

10.30am – Introduction to day

10.35am – Debate 1

10.50am – Debate 2

11.05am – Debate 3

11.20am – Debate 4

11.35am – Debate 5

11.50am – Wrap up of debates

12.00pm – Lunch (served in Oak Room). Sign up for an afternoon workshop.

12.45pm – Introduction to afternoon

13.00pm – Workshops

14.00pm – Thank you and goodbye

Entering the Summit

Any young person aged 11-25 in Staffordshire can enter the debate. You do not need to be part of a team to enter, we welcome individual students to take part. Schools can enter up to 8 young people to take part in the debate and two members of staff. Everyone is encouraged to write a speech for each debate for the best chance of taking part.

To register for the Summit please visit
<https://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/YESS-summit>

The Debates

There will be five debates in total, each lasting 15 minutes. Each of the five debates will follow the below structure:

- The first speaker gives an argument agreeing with the debate statement. (2 minutes)
- The second speaker gives an argument disagreeing with the statement. (2 minutes)
- The floor is opened to anyone else in the chamber to share their views (for or against the statement). (1 minute per person)
- A summarising speech is given agreeing with the debate statement. (1 minute)
- A summarising speech is given disagreeing with the debate statement. This will end the debate. (1 minute)

Debate Leads

We are looking for schools to submit Debate Leads who will open and close each debate. Each school can be one of the Opener and Closer teams of a debate to compete against other schools in the county. There will be a prize for the best school team, as decided by the judges.

If you are interested in your school leading a debate, contact Nicola on n.lynes@staffs-wildlife.org.uk

Judging

The debates will be judged by a panel of councillors and experts, with the chair having a casting vote in the case of a tie. The judges will consider the speech given (focusing on the clarity of the argument) and how well it was presented.

There will be prizes for best individual speakers and the best team effort.

What will I get from it?

Not only will you gain and develop debating skills, you will be sharing your opinion on environmental issues that matter to young people in front of local decision makers. By joining in with the workshops, you will be able to give your opinion on the priorities of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, and let local businesses and decision makers know your views about the environment in Staffordshire.

There has never been a more crucial time to do this, as the UK's Environmental Act is getting re-evaluated and a new Bill is to be introduced later this year. This is your opportunity to have your say on environmental issues that matter to you.

You will meet new people from around the county and have the opportunity to meet with some of the local councillors, charities and businesses who work in the environmental sector.

Your school will also receive one years' free membership to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

The most important part of the debate is to have fun! We want to hear what you have to say about these issues, but want you to gain new skills and enjoy yourself whilst taking part.

Debate 1:

Plastic waste and recycling is the responsibility of businesses and local authorities in Staffordshire.

Debate 2

People should not be allowed to access nature reserves, as they are managed for the benefit of wildlife.

Debate 3

Climate change is the most important environmental issue facing young people of Staffordshire today.

Debate 4

The best way to ensure Staffordshire has a thriving landscape rich in wildlife is through reintroduction and re-wilding programmes.

Debate 5

It should be the responsibility of residents in Staffordshire to reduce their use of fossil fuels, and to increase their use of renewable energy.