**(Insert town/city) student/s experience Australia’s flagship STEM youth program**

**Media Release**

14 February, 2022 (edit date)

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) received over 1250 applications from all corners of Australia to participate in the country’s flagship science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) youth program. Over its 39-year history, the NYSF Year 12 Program has connected more than 14,000 participants with leading STEM experts from across Australia and the world, and 2022 was no different!

(insert your name), from XX School, was amongst the 627 incredible students selected to participate in the 2022 NYSF Year 12 Program featuring a new-look, COVID-safe program that included digital workshops, lectures, and virtual-tours combined with several amazing in-person STEM visits for those in Perth.

With record numbers attending the 2022 NYSF Year 12 Program, participants were able to access 73 live digital sessions with 195 speakers and 15 in-person STEM visits over 5 days in Perth. Additional STEM visits will be scheduled in other states throughout 2022 when safe to do so. Participants fully embraced digital networking with their peers and international STEM experts, and worked together to solve some of the country’s most important and complex STEM challenges. Participants were tasked with a range of challenges including an innovation proposal to meet the Ag2030 target, communicating about what they have learnt for the public, designing techniques for solving cybersecurity ciphers, find innovative ways to creatively encourage more girls and women in STEM, and to pitch new ways Australia can achieve its goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

The 2022 NYSF Year 12 Program featured two Nobel Prize winners, numerous top experts in subjects ranging from forensic anthropology to drones, workshops with leading scientists and STEM organisations, and an array of live crosses to some of the world’s very best science and technology facilities, including to Mawson, Davis and Casey Stations in Antarctica, the Natural History Museum in London, and CERN in Switzerland.

CEO of the NYSF, Dr Melanie Bagg, said the program was transformational.

*‘We know just how tough it has been for students and their families over the last few years, and we’re here to make sure that Australia’s future STEM workforce have the opportunity to explore the myriad of STEM jobs that are open to them. The youth-led program also offers strong social connection and leadership opportunities, with participants going on to join the 14,000 strong NYSF alumni community and the connections that offers.’ said Dr Bagg.*

*“insert a quote/s here – you might want to say something about what you got out of the program (did it change what you want to do?) what you want to do now and would you recommend the program to others who are looking at pursuing a career in STEM.”*

Support from the Australian Government through the National Innovation Science Agenda (NISA), Major Partner, Lockheed Martin Australia, NYSF host universities, and a range of [other partners](https://www.nysf.edu.au/our-partners/) ensures the NYSF can continue to deliver unique, high quality, and immersive STEM programs in Australia.

Due to the broad reach of over 1000 Rotary Clubs, the NYSF attracts students Australia wide. In 2022, 43% of participants are from remote and regional areas of Australia, and 64% identify as young women. As an equitable program for all, 92 students in need have received scholarships made possible by generous support from The Rotary International, the Department of Industry, Science Energy and Resources, The Western Australian Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation and the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer.

You can find out more about the NYSF and read highlights of the 2022 NYSF Year 12 Program by going to our website [HERE](https://www.nysf.edu.au/news/).

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IMAGE: (attach image of yourself during the program and write details of image here).