



lekol zil sesel  
**save our seas**  
island school seychelles

## **Save Our Seas Foundation - D'Arros Experience 2026**

*“Save YOUR Seas” Competition*

### **Who are we?**

Since 2003, the Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF) has been dedicated to protecting life in our oceans. The Foundation has a strong connection with the Seychelles, having sponsored research and conservation projects here since 2005 and education programmes since 2009. The Foundation also manages the SOSF D'Arros Research Centre (SOSF-DRC) on the island of D'Arros in the Amirantes since 2012.

### **What is the D'Arros Experience**

The D'Arros Experience, initiated by the SOSF and its D'Arros Research Centre (SOSF-DRC), aims to engage young Seychellois on the importance of the ecosystems that form part of their national heritage while providing practical, hands-on field experience in a globally important ecological hotspot. The D'Arros Experience is an important component of SOSF's worldwide mission to promote environmental education and outreach. The idea is to provide students with a clear understanding of how ecosystems, from the coast to the deeper ocean, function and are connected.

Two consecutive one-week D'Arros Experience camps will take place during school holidays and up to eight spaces may be awarded per week.

**The competition is open to all Seychellois primary and secondary school students aged 10 to 14. (Age at time of submission)**

### **Successful applicants should be:**

- enthusiastic about the marine environment,
- motivated, creative, and critical thinkers,
- able to work well with others.

**Note:** Swimming and/or snorkeling experience is preferable but not compulsory. Winning participants will be offered swimming lessons in the lead-up to the camps.

**The Competition:** How do you envision to see the Seychelles environment in 10 years?

### **Entry Options and requirements:**

*The contestant is able to choose one of the below entry types for submission:*

- Video (2-3minutes)
- Short Story (800-1000 words)
- Art piece with summary (80-100 words)

### **Submission Requirements:**

**Art piece :** *A4-A3 size all art pieces, No 3D sculptures but 3D drawings are accepted but must be accompanied with a small summary explaining what your art piece is showcasing (50-100 words max).*

**Short Story:** *Short stories should be a maximum of 1000 words and a minimum of 800 words*

**Videos:** *Videos must be between two and three minutes in length.*

For those unable to send digital versions or copies of submissions to the email address or phone number above, there is an option to hand in hard copies at the SOSF-ISS office, located at Eden Island, Waterfront Building, 2nd Floor (Room 203).

### **What is the competition?**

*The participants must envision and create the environment they would like to have for Seychelles' in 10 years' time/ Highlight how they would fit into the picture and what has to change in order for their vision to happen.*

- a) The participant must show understanding of Seychelles' environment's current state and project its future trajectory over the next decade.
- b) Identify the potential challenges that can be encountered to achieve their future Seychelles environment.
- c) Explore how they can contribute to shaping a brighter future for Seychelles' wildlife.

***Campaigns should be submitted to [competition@saveourseas.com](mailto:competition@saveourseas.com) OR via Google form link along with the completed and signed application form by 23:59 GMT+4h on Friday, 26th September 2025.***

Submissions will not be judged on grammar but need to be clear in meaning. **Incomplete submission (e.g. lacking an application form, not having followed instructions) will not be considered.**

## **Additional Information:**

Judging will be based on the student's demonstrated skill of:

1. An understanding of the overall theme.
2. The originality of their ideas in coming up with descriptive information about the future Seychelles environment.
3. The overall message conveyed to the targeted audience for solutions for addressing the identified threats.

The judging process takes place over a one-month period. Each submission is evaluated anonymously wherever possible, with no personal details of the participants shared with the assigned judges. Every submission is assessed by two different judges and further reviewed by two independent moderators. We ensure that all judging is conducted fairly, without bias, and in alignment with the principles of transparency, equity, and accountability.

## **Timeline of the D'Arros Experience 2026**

Winners will be informed by the end of November 2025, at the latest, after which they will have to attend swimming lessons on Mahe in preparation for the camps.

The D'Arros Experience 2026 is intended to be held during two weeks at the end of April/early May 2026, towards the end of school holidays, and dates will be communicated in agreement with the Ministry of Education once a school holiday schedule has been passed.

## **Deadline:**

Submissions are accepted until the **26th of September 2025**, along with the completed and signed application form at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UGMOS39kcQkZJVVo\\_0QoGf2hFaSjeeO/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UGMOS39kcQkZJVVo_0QoGf2hFaSjeeO/view?usp=sharing), to [competition@saveourseas.com](mailto:competition@saveourseas.com) or any of the submission Portals:

**Google form:** <https://forms.gle/mJKtp6NHBwTwUmeX8>

Submit in Person at the SOSF-ISS office, Eden Island, Waterfront Building, 2nd Floor, Room 203.

**For further information, please email [competition@saveourseas.com](mailto:competition@saveourseas.com) or contact +248 2785287 (Sheril De Comarmond), Education and Communications Coordinator.**

## **Save Our Seas Foundation Competition Rules and Regulations**

1. The program, camp, and competition are entirely funded and supported by the Save Our Seas Foundation.
2. The competition is open only to students of the specified age group registered in all public and private schools in Seychelles but also ones that are being home-schooled.
3. Applicants must have Seychellois residency and live in Seychelles at the time of application.
4. Applicants who have visited or will visit Aldabra as part of the Eco-School and Seychelles Island Foundation (SIF) programme or any other Outer Island programme will not be excluded from the competition. However, where candidates are tied this may be a selection criterion considered by the judging panel to help maximise the opportunities available to students.
5. Applicants who have previously been to D'Arros during a D'Arros Experience will not be able to participate a second time.
6. Applicants must be of the appropriate age at the time of the submission deadline (26th September 2025).
7. Submissions have to be complete to be considered. The application form, filled out by the student and signed by parent or guardian has to accompany the main submission.
8. No submissions in any language other than English, Creole or French are accepted.
9. All submissions must be original and entirely the student's own work unless other works are being quoted or referenced.
10. All quotes and references must be cited. All images must be properly referenced and cannot infringe on any copyrights.
11. Only one application will be accepted per applicant.
12. All applications and submissions must be submitted by email: [competition@saveourseas.com](mailto:competition@saveourseas.com) with the subject line "SOSF D'Arros Experience 2026\_FirstName\_LastName" or via Google Form. For those unable to send in digital versions or copies of submissions to the above email address, there is the option to hand in hard copies at the SOSF-ISS office at Eden Island, Waterfront building, 2nd Floor, Room 203.
13. The Jury's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding their decision.

14. Up to 16 winners will be given certificates of achievement by the Save Our Seas Foundation, signifying that they won the competition arranged in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Seychelles.

15. All general enquiries should be addressed to [competition@saveourseas.com](mailto:competition@saveourseas.com).

16. All entries are submitted on the understanding that, if chosen as one of the winners, the competition organisers have the right to use the documents submitted in non-commercial SOSF publications and on the SOSF website and associated social networks.

17. For a finalist to receive the award, their correct contact information, including full name, name of parents/guardian, parents'/guardian's phone number, address and/or e-mail address, is required. A submission with incorrect or incomplete contact information may be disqualified.

18. By participating in the contest, applicants and winners grant the Save Our Seas Foundation, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment a worldwide, exclusive, royalty-free and irrevocable licence to use the content of the drawings, videos and essays in whole or in part.

In addition, the winners grant the Save Our Seas Foundation permission to photograph, record and film all activities associated with the competition and the camp on Mahé and D'Arros Island. These recordings and photographs will become the property of the Save Our Seas Foundation for didactic and non-commercial use at its discretion, in all media and in perpetuity, to promote marine education and conservation initiatives. The Save Our Seas Foundation further grants permission to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment to use these photographs and videos on their respective communication channels, including the Eco-School website, and in their press releases with required accreditation.

19. Applicants must have the consent of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) before applying.

20. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will have to sign liability waiver documents on behalf of the winning student to secure that student's position. Some further information will be required from the winners.

21. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) might have to submit other documents on behalf of the winning student, and medical certificates may be required.

23. Applicants must be in a state of good health, and if not, obtain medical clearance from their physician before participating in the island program.

24. If your essay submission or summary has been generated by AI then your entry will automatically be disqualified.



**Declaration of proofread (By parents or guardian)**

I....., being the parent or legal guardian of the applicant named above, hereby affirm that I have read and understood this document.

