



Save Our Seas Foundation - D'Arros Experience 2024

“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 SOSF Island School seeks to promote understanding and respect for the marine environment in Seychelles through children's education. By combining a team of enthusiastic educators and scientists, together with a range of in-water field experiences, the program offers a unique and hands on learning experience that aims to help encourage a sense of ocean ownership in young Seychellois.

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 for these spaces is open to all Seychellois primary/secondary school students aged 10 to 15. *(Age at the time of submission or on 1st April 2024)*

Successful applicants should be:

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

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

The competition

“Your local environmental hero”

We want to know, behind the scenes, **who is doing what for our environment in their everyday lives.**

Create a detailed **profile** of your local environmental hero

Seek out a person (of any age) in Seychelles that inspired you to care about the Seychelles environment whether at land or at sea. This person can be working in the environmental sector for an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation), government or be teaching about ecosystems in your school. This person can also be someone in your family, friends or neighbourhood that invests substantial amount of their own time into helping the environment for example by cleaning beaches regularly or advocating to better waste management. We want to see evidence in your submissions that you have spoken to that person whether directly or virtually and learnt about them and their work.

Important is (a) the person inspires you to care and (b) the person is helping the environment.

Submissions can be in the form of **a video, poster or essay.**

Output length/size requirement

- *Video*: should be a minimum of 3 minutes long but no more than 5 mins
- *Poster*: should be clear and can use either A4 or A3 paper
- *Essay*: should be a minimum of 800-1500 words

Submission Requirements

Submissions **have** to include the following:

1. An introduction to the person and who they are (full name, district, job etc).
2. Their background (e.g., career path, history, past work).
3. Their current job or involvement in the environment (e.g., fulltime job as an environmental teacher, organising beach clean-ups in their free time, studying turtles all their life) What are they doing to help the environment?
4. Let us know what it is about them that inspires you.
5. Include, at minimum, one quote by the person proving you have reached out to and spoken to them (digitally or in person).

To facilitate application/participation, digital application forms and can be accessed [here](#). We **encourage all parents** and participants to submit all applications via the google forms provided digitally.

Profiles can also be sent digitally to **competition@saveourseas.com** OR via **SOSF Educational Coordinator Sheena Talma +248 280 0236** along with the **completed and signed application form** by 23:59 GMT+4h on Saturday, 14th October 2023.

For those **unable** to send in digital versions or copies of submissions to the above email address or phone number, there is the option to hand in hard copies at the Minsitry of Education. Please

address these to Lynndina Essack, Competition D'Arros Experience 2023, Ministry of Education, Mont Fleuri

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.**

Judging

Judging will be based on the students' demonstrated skill of:

1. **Critical thinking, curiosity, and investigation,**
2. **Creating awareness** on an unknown local hero,
3. The **originality and creativity** of presentation of the profile you have chosen
4. Ensuring **all requirements** have been adhered to

Timing of the D'Arros Experience 2023

Winners will be informed **by December 2023**, at the latest, after which they will have the opportunity to attend swimming lessons on Mahe in preparation for the camps.

The D'Arros Experience 2023 is intended to be held during two weeks at the end of April/early May 2024 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. Alternatively, if there are any reasons that may come up that would hinder the running of the camps at that time, the camps will then run at the beginning of August 2023.

Save Our Seas Foundation Competition Rules and Regulations

1. The program, camp and competition are funded and supported by the Save Our Seas Foundation.
2. The competition is open 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 that have previously been to D'Arros during the D'Arros Experience 2022/2023 will not be able to participate.
6. Applicants must be of the appropriate age at the submission deadline date or by 1st April 2024.
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 submission must be submitted by email: competition@saveourseas.com with the subject line "SOSF D'Arros Experience 2024_FirstName_LastName" or via SOSF Coordinator Sheena Talma **+248 280 0236**. 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 Minsitry

of Education. Please address these to Lynndina Essack, Competition D'Arros Experience 2024, Ministry of Education, Mont Fleuri.

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 participation 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.
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 Energy 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.
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 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.
22. Pending circumstances relating to Covid 19 at the time, experiences may be delayed. This will be based on the advice provided by the Ministry of Health, at the time.
23. As and if needed, a Covid 19 standard operating procedure will be in place for D'Arros Island. A quarantine period may be required of participants, prior to travel. Covid testing at multiple stages may also be necessary.