



lekol zil sesel
save our seas
island school seychelles

Save Our Seas Foundation - D'Arros Experience 2025

“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 n 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 for these spaces is open to all Seychellois primary/secondary school students aged 10 to 14. (Age at the 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: *If the Ocean was a person, how would it describe or present itself?*

Entry Options:

- Poetry
- Essay
- Drawing
- Video
- 3D Art piece

What is the competition?

The contestant is required to submit one of the five options, accompanied by an explanation of how the ocean would talk about its characteristics or describe itself. The 2 main criteria are that the participants show originality and creativity. This competition offers the participant an opportunity to showcase the challenges that the ocean encounters on a global and local scale.

a) The participant must show creativity around the personalization of the ocean

and

b) Underscore the risks endangering our oceans and the calls for assistance from the marine environment in addressing these issues.

Submission Requirements:

Drawings and Art Sculptures: *A small summary explaining what your art piece or drawing is showcasing (50-100 words max).*

Essays and Poetry: *Essays have a word restriction of 500 and 300 minimum whereas the word limit for poetry is 100 and 80 words minimum.*

Videos: *Videos must be longer than two minutes but shorter than three minutes in length.*

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 Ministry of Education. Please address these to Lynndina Essack, Competition D'Arros Experience 2025, Ministry of Education, Mont Fleuri.

Judging

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

1. An understanding of the threats surrounding the ocean.
2. The originality of their ideas in coming up with descriptive information about the ocean's threats and impersonation of the ocean.
3. The overall message conveyed to the targeted audience about solutions in addressing the chosen threats.

Timing of the D'Arros Experience 2025

Winners will be informed by mid-November 2024, at the latest, after which they will have to attend swimming lessons on Mahe in preparation for the camps.

The D'Arros Experience 2025 is intended to be held during two weeks at the end of April/early May 2025 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 **20th of September 2024** along with the completed and signed application form to competition@saveourseas.com or any of the submission Portals:

Google form <https://forms.gle/ji5KWd35oAfkvkt97>

OR

Campaigns should be submitted to competition@saveourseas.com OR via Google form link along with the completed and signed application form by 23:59 GMT+4h on Friday, 20th September 2024.

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.**

Submit in Person at the Ministry of Education (Mont Fleuri) (Lynndina Essack & Catherina Onezia)

For further information please email 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 that have previously been to D'Arros during a D'Arros Experience will not be able to participate.
6. Applicants must be of the appropriate age at the time of submission deadline (20th September 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 2023_FirstName_LastName" or via SOSF Coordinator **Sheena Talma +248 280 0236/Education and Communications Coordinator Sheril De Comarmond**. 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 Ministry 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 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.

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 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 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.