

Lions  
youth  
of the year

## NOTES FOR ENTRANTS

- AVOCADO
- CITRUS
- DAIRYING & CATTLE
- KIWI FRUIT

Obi Obi Creek

- MACADAMIA NUTS
- PINEAPPLES
- CHEESE INDUSTRIES
- TOURISM
- RAINFORESTS

Lions Club of Maleny-Blackall Range Inc.



DISTRICT  
20103  
QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

## **INTRODUCTION**

These notes are intended as a guide to filling out your application form and to assist the judges in all rounds of Judging, as well as giving you hints to help you in all facets of the project. Please read the "Guide to Judges" also available on the internet as it will give you an insight into the way they are asked to judge and THIS IS IMPORTANT to you.

## **YOUR ENTRY FORM**

It is critical that you give us as much information about yourself as you can. Don't be shy about telling us how good you are. Shout about your achievements in all facets of your life, not only school, because that's what you are judged on. Add pages if you have to; don't even try to condense your life into the few lines available on the form.

Most importantly, this original application form goes with you to the next rounds should you be the successful contestant at each level. You can change it after this round to update anything that has happened since its initial completion and must be resigned by your school principal. We try to get you to open up about yourselves at the Club judging, because in later rounds, you may be judged solely on the information in your form.

Remember that the information given on the form and our discussion with you, form 80% of your points. Please don't make it too hard for us by only giving bare details.

### **i) Leadership – 15 points**

List all positions held in last two years both at school and in other organisations.

We are looking for the ability to command respect and direct the development of others, and positions we are looking for are:

- School captain
- Vice captain
- Form captain
- Prefect
- TIP leader
- Team captain
- Sports captain
- Cultural teams eg concert band, school musical leadership, debating team
- Coaching positions both school and community based
- Youth council membership
- Youth community group leadership such as Guides, Scouts, Girls and Boys Brigade
- Leadership roles within Cadets
- Sporting team leader
- Church organisations eg Sunday/Sabbath School or youth groups

and remember, vice captains, and deputies roles are leadership too.

We need to know what your interests are and how you participate in both your school and home communities. The more details you give us, the easier your interview will be. We like it to be friendly round-table talk rather than an interview.

### **ii) Sporting and/or Cultural Activities – 10 points**

List all activities over the last 2 years for both school and community based activities.

#### **School sport participation**

Please list them all – team and individual, as both are important. Let us know if you are involved in school sporting team coaching as this is critical to your input into the school community.

## **School cultural participation**

Again, list them all – team and individual. This is very important, as not everybody is interested in sport, and it is weighted the same as sporting achievements.

## **Achievements**

If you've had a personal achievement that wasn't recognised as being "the best" but you feel it was a personal milestone, we're very interested and we won't know about it unless you tell us.

If you've strived to make a team, tell us. Did your team work towards and achieve a goal? Did you gain a coaching level?

If you've worked hard for a music exam, tell us that too, or anything else where you felt an achievement. Have you learnt a new instrument or a new sport and been good enough to play in a group?

Did your dance group do well? Did you audition for a place in the town or school musical and make it?

Achievements are endless, you just have to tell us about them.

## **Awards won**

List them all, school, sporting, cultural, school and community based. This can overlap with the section above.

If you have been the recipient of a House Award, please give us full details of WHY you got it and the judging for it. This is particularly critical as we need to know what you got your points for – it all counts in adding up your school community involvement.

## **State or higher level representations**

A bit elitist but this impresses people. It doesn't have to be school or sporting based. Did you gain a Duke of Edinburgh Award or Queens Guide/Scout etc? That's international!

## **iii) Citizenship and Community Involvement – 10 points**

List all activities for the last two years in both school and community.

### **Participation**

This really overlaps with the section above, but this time we're not looking for awards and achievements. We're interested in how you fill in your out of school hours.

List ALL participation in ALL clubs, organisations, community, so yes, you will be listing ALL the groups and organisations mentioned above, plus any others you didn't tell us about.

## **iv) Academic – 10 points**

List all your achievements in general studies during the last two years

## **Subjects and Levels passed**

Please give us your results for every subject for grades 10 and 11, because if the judging is very close and we have to do a recount, it could come down to the number of 4s, 5s and 6s that you get.

## **Subjects and Levels currently being studied**

Again, list every subject you're doing in grade 12.

## **Scholarships held**

Again, a bit elitist and a bit hard for those in the state school system, but you may hold one we don't know about.

## **Academic Awards received**

List them all, school, uni and organisation based.

Did you achieve in a science, maths, English, history or geography competition over the last two years? Did you achieve in Tournament of the Minds?

## **v) Hobbies (listed in order of preference)**

List them all, and they may overlap with previous sections. If they are unusual, give us a bit of detail to make it easier to talk to you about them.

## **Personality (impact in interview) – 15 points**

This is the critical part of your entry and you can sway a lot of points either way depending on your attitude. Don't let a bad day at school influence how you conduct yourself while we're talking to you.

The interview in Maleny, if held during school time, can be a lot harder than the next levels, where most are held on the weekend when you're more relaxed. If you get through to the next round, you'll find it very different. You may be asked to wear good casual clothes because they're just as much part of your personality as your manners and mannerisms.

Be aware of your facial expressions and hand actions. Please be natural and don't leave them in your lap. Don't forget they can easily portray nervousness or exaggerations in your achievements.

Be open, direct and not afraid to express yourself. The judges are on your side and are trying to do the best they can for you.

We'll be looking for:

- Maturity
- Sense of humour
- Emotional stability
- Frankness
- Self-control
- Friendliness
- Willingness and ability to listen

## **General Knowledge – 20 points**

This section holds the most points, so please prepare yourself by watching/listening to the news and reading newspapers.

You will be asked your opinion on topical subjects but they may not necessarily be news headlines. They could be as simple as asking you if you think school prepares you for life after you leave or other topical subjects for your age group. The questions that you'll all be asked for this section could come as part of the general conversation, so please talk to us, be open, and answer everything as best you can.

Your opinion counts and this is the section that will make you or break you, so please, please, answer every seemingly harmless question as fully as you can without waffling on.

This section prepares you for the life you could lead next year if you win at national level. You will be expected to mix with all types of people and have an opinion on a wide range of subjects. It's a wonderful year and one that will take you a long way to achieving your goals or greater heights than you would have expected.

## **Personality – 15 points**

Remember at all times, we judge you on personality development, confidence, self-expression, citizenship and leadership. We are looking for poise and personality in a person who can take his or her place in any community and who will be an ambassador for the youth of Australia and Papua New Guinea at home and overseas.

You must have good knowledge and appreciation of Australia and its affairs.

Most importantly, you must be able to express yourself clearly and adequately at an interview when faced with unrehearsed questions, seeking opinions on topical matters, in delivering a short formal address, or making small talk at a function where you know very few people.

Most importantly, be prepared to talk.

## **General Information on the sections above –**

### **Clubs – School and Community**

Are you a member of a chess club, a film society, or .....? List them and tell us how long you've been in them. Tell us about your input to them.

### **Community welfare/involvement (including youth organisations)**

This one overlaps with the public organisations.

- Scouting, Guiding, Girls and Boys Brigade also give you points for leadership if you have been a patrol leader etc. Be prepared to tell us about your awards and achievements in them.
- Tell us about your Duke of Edinburgh Award participation and achievements.
- List your involvement with Clean up Australia, participation in collections and appeals.
- If you have been overseas to assist another community with your church, or participated in school life in another country, let us know.
- Are you a member of a dog walking group for the RSPCA?
- Do you teach a dance troop?
- Did you participate in Clean up Australia or the Red Shield Appeal?

We're looking for

- Range of activities
- Positions held
- Attitude

### **Sporting and cultural activities**

Do you coach a junior sporting team or teach a younger group in your dance troop?

Are you a member of a sporting club or team?

Have you received a trophy or award for your efforts?

Tell us about them, because we won't know if you don't tell us.

## **Public Speaking – 30 points**

**a) Impromptu current affairs questions – 10 points**

**b) Prepared speech – five minutes on subject of own choice – 15 points**

**c) Presentation – 5 points**

This is one of the highlights of the Club year, and Lions and their partners will try to be present. It is usually a dinner meeting at night, and you are encouraged to bring parents and friends to support you. Your teachers will also encourage students in Grade 11 they consider may be suitable entrants the next year. We try to arrange the programme so that you do get to eat, rather than not being able to eat because of nerves.

If any of your supporters have special dietary requirements for the meal, please let us know so that meals can be arranged for them. Don't just tell us on the night and expect the caterer to have appropriate meals for them.

School uniform is the appropriate dress. A blazer isn't a requirement, although you'll probably be expected to wear them, particularly if you have different badges and special pockets.

Remember this is public speaking, not debating, so don't use debating tactics! If you're not a debater, don't try to find out what they are, just be yourself.

Be natural. Use hand movements, make eye contact with friends or look towards the back row.

You can have a humorous speech; it doesn't have to be a serious topic. More often than not, essays don't convert well into speeches, even though writing them uses the same format. Don't try to put too many ideas into five minutes – keep it simple. Don't be a drama queen because it could cost you points.

Project your voice even though you'll probably be using a microphone. You can test the microphone at the beginning of the night, so don't be afraid to because you'll speak better into it if you do. It should be adjusted for your height, so don't lean forward into it because you'll be slouching all over the lectern. Don't be frightened to adjust it yourself if you need to.

Most importantly, learn your speech – don't read it. By all means use palm cards, but that's what they should be, palm cards with notes, not sheets of paper with your whole speech in full.

## **Impromptu questions – 10 points**

In the order you selected at the informal judging in the afternoon, you will be given two impromptu questions, where you will be expected to speak for 2 minutes **maximum** on each. Each question will be asked twice and the written question will be placed in front of you. PLEASE LISTEN TO THE CHAIRMAN'S INSTRUCTIONS. One bell will ring at the 2 minute mark.

All but the first contestant will be escorted outside the room prior to the commencement, but you will resume your place in the audience as soon as you have completed your questions. **5 points are allocated for these questions**, so don't panic if you're not good at impromptus, because you'll probably make the points up somewhere else. You don't have to be serious, be yourself, but ANSWER THE QUESTION.

Points will be allocated for knowledge and reasoning, and expression.

If you aren't good at impromptus, and not many of us are, get your friends or family to give you simple questions to answer. A bit of practice works wonders.

## **Prepared Speech – 15 points**

This is a five minute **formal** speech on a subject of your own choice. It can be humorous, so express your personality. It doesn't have to be a serious topic. Just remember, it isn't a debate, it's a formal speech.

All participants will be in the audience during this section. We need to know the topic of your speech at the informal judging, so that it can be included in the programme, and so that the judges can stay away from your topics as best they can for the impromptu questions.

You will be given a warning bell, so again LISTEN TO THE CHAIRMAN'S INSTRUCTIONS on the timing. There may be penalties for speeches of less than 4 ½ minutes or overtime.

Judging for this section is:

- Organisation of material in logical sequence
- Balance of presentation
- Relative importance of topic

## **Presentation – 5 points**

Another **5 points** will be allocated over both sections of the night for:

- Manner/deportment - don't lounge all over the lectern but please use your hands
- Clarity
- Conviction. If you're going to be humorous, be yourself. Don't practice it so much it no longer comes over as natural.
- PLEASE USE THE MICROPHONE IF IT IS AVAILABLE! This is extremely important as it can mean the difference between the audience and more importantly, the judges, actually hearing you. The acoustics in some rooms/halls can be terrible, and it doesn't matter how good your speech is, if they can't hear you, they can't judge you fairly.

## **When it's over**

At the completion of the night, certificates will be awarded to all contestants. There will be two winners on the night - for Public Speaking as well as the overall winner. It can be the same person.

It's very difficult for parents and supporters to realise that 80% of the points have already been allocated before they arrive, and parents always like to think their child is the best.

The overall winner will automatically go on to the next level of competition. Your application form will be passed on, as will our impromptu questions, so that they won't be asked again. The winner can change their application form to include updated or forgotten information but the alterations must be approved by the school principal.

## **CONCLUSION**

- Listen to your teacher or coach's advice
- Fill your form in as fully as you can
- Read all the information you can find on the internet about the competition (some is only available to the Club Chairman using his password)
- Arrive in time for the judging
- Be yourself at all times
- Good luck!