



National Speaking 4 the Planet 2023

Invitation to Participate

Councils around Australia are invited to support high schools and high-school-aged youth in their LGAs to participate in the 2023 **Speaking 4 the Planet** competition.

In partnership with the Australian Association for Environmental Education and Paddy Pallin, the Speaking 4 the Planet (S4P) team is conducting its first ever national competition. You are invited to participate. Your support will allow the schools in your LGA to join the competition.

S4P is an arts-based sustainability competition for high school students. The competition encourages young people to think creatively and share ideas about living sustainably at local, regional and global levels. Here's a short video that says more about the competition: [Advocates 4 the Earth - S4P - YouTube](#)

The 2023 competition will be held online. It is free for students in LGAs where councils support the initiative.

Topic

The overarching topic is ***Edge of the Future***. Each participating local government will be invited to give the topic a sub-heading drawn from the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant to its own local area. For example...

- If biodiversity and land management are your local priorities, the competition topic in your LGA will be ***Edge of the Future: Life on Land*** (SDG15).
- if water quality is your local priority, the topic will be ***Edge of the Future: Clean Water and Sanitation*** (SDG6).

Councils decide their own sub-heading. Let the S4P team know which SDG is your sub-heading and we will send you a poster relevant to that specific SDG. There are examples accompanying this invitation. Councils send the poster and an invitation to their local high schools (note that, once you register, a letter template will be provided in order to facilitate this communication).

Here's a link to the Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Target audience

High-school-age youth (12-18) are invited to participate.

Categories

Competition categories for the 2023 S4P competition are:

- Speaking
- Writing
- Performance poetry
- Visual Arts



Students can enter submissions in one or more categories. All submissions will be made online.

Closing date

The closing date will be Friday 18 August. Winners will be announced in person and on the S4P website by the end of September.

Support provided to schools

A support package will be prepared and distributed to registered councils for distribution to their high schools. The package will contain information on the topic, links to resources, and explanation and judging criteria for each category. Councils can also send their own local materials relevant to the chosen sub-heading.

Cost

Councils are asked to contribute a \$650 fee for S4P to be offered in their LGA. This fee will allow all interested high school students in their LGA to participate in the competition.

10% of funds received will support a national environmental youth award.

How Councils can Participate

1. Register your Council to participate and make payment of the registration fee. Register by contacting Phil at phil@speaking4theplanet.org.au
2. Distribute the support package and poster to each high school in your LGA. A draft letter will be sent for you to adapt and send with the package. This letter will introduce the competition to your high schools and highlight the local sub-heading.
3. Provide the S4P team with the contacts list for schools so follow-up communication and ideas can be forwarded to the schools.
4. Prizes will be sourced from Paddy Pallin, the event partner, and other sources, but it would be great if Councils could also provide prizes for any winning students in their LGAs and find opportunities for students to present/display their submissions.
5. Assist with promotion of the event to schools. If needed, a media release template can be provided.

Get involved

To sign up your Council for S4P, or to find out more information about this competition, contact Phil Smith at phil@speaking4theplanet.org.au

