



# National Speaking 4 the Planet 2024

## Invitation to Participate

In partnership with the Australian Association for Environmental Education and Paddy Pallin, the Speaking 4 the Planet (S4P) team is offering Councils two ways to engage your youth in a sustainability education initiative. Councils may choose to support student participation in the national online competition, or you may choose to run a **live S4P event** in their LGAs.

S4P is an arts-based sustainability competition that encourages participants 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 2024 competition is free for participants in LGAs where councils support the initiative.

### Topic: Trees, the Guardians of Life

From the blue beaches to its red centre, Australia is blessed with diverse and unique woodlands, rainforests and bushlands. With over 130million hectares of forests, Australia has trees and canopies over about 17% of its land area.

Wherever we live in this country - near the coast, along rivers, in mountains or on plains - we have valuable trees and forests. From the northern tropical regions down through sub-tropical regions to temperate zones, we have trees everywhere. They are a part of our lives. And they matter. Trees sustain life. Trees sustain civilizations.

This year, the S4P competition asks participants to focus on the importance of their local forests - for themselves and their communities and their regions. This topic is linked to Sustainable Development Goal 15 - Life on Land.

### Target audience

High-school-age youth (12-18) are invited to participate. **And, for the first time, we are inviting teachers to participate in the writing category.**

### Categories

Competition categories for the 2024 S4P competition are:

- Speaking
- Writing
- Performance poetry
- Visual Arts



## Closing date

The closing date is Friday 31 May. Winners will be announced on the S4P website on National Tree Day, Sunday 28 July 2024.

## Support provided to Councils

A short document will be provided for councils, and an online session will be conducted on how to engage your schools. This will be scheduled in mid March 2024. Each participating council will receive a promotional poster with its logo on it.

Councils that run live events will be offered ongoing and tailored support. This will comprise zoom collaboration, preparation of special materials, local/regional contacts, and a checklist of tasks. Depending on location, support could include a face-to-face meeting.

## Support provided to your 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.

## Prizes

Paddy Pallin, a competition partner, will provide very practical items for first place in each category. In addition, first place winners will receive \$100. Second place winners will simply receive \$100. Councils are invited to provide prizes for any students in their LGAs and find opportunities for students to present/display their submissions after the competition finishes.

The best entries will be compiled into a digital magazine that will be sent to participating councils and to relevant government departments and Ministers and NGOs.

## Cost

Councils are asked to contribute a \$750 fee for S4P to be offered in their LGA. This fee will allow all interested youth (12-18yrs old) and high school teachers in the LGA to participate in the competition. **The costs of conducting and supporting a live event require individual negotiation.**

## 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](mailto: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 need to focus on local trees and bushlands.
3. Continue to promote the competition to your schools. If needed, a media release template can be provided. Council has the responsibility for communicating with its high schools.

## Get involved

To register your Council for the competition, or to find out more about this competition, contact Phil Smith at [phil@speaking4theplanet.org.au](mailto:phil@speaking4theplanet.org.au)

