



District 105SE Reports to Convention 2022

District Youth Team

Youth Projects Co-ordinator – David Skinner

As happened last year we have had achievements with Young Ambassador and the ROAR programme. Young Ambassador had three applicants which is an improved situation but this year meaningful co-ordinated activity has again not been possible. We have again lost our Youth Exchange activities and Leo Club formation has not been appropriate.

Our Youth Officers stand ready to act as soon as circumstances allow and I am grateful for their support.

Lifeskills Officer- David Skinner

For much of this year it has been inappropriate to visit schools with this programme and where it was possible it hasn't met school priorities. Consequently we have installed just a few bereavement resources this year.

Youth Exchange Liasion – Keith Mates

It is with deep regret that I must report for the third time in three years that the Youth Exchange Program is not taking place in MD105 due to the virus.

I am standing down this year so if anyone wishes to take on this valuable project next year, please let the District Secretary know.

Youth Exchange considerations for the new officer.

1. HOSTING - The hosting element can be very difficult if the hosts are left to provide the day-to-day program. It should be a club event and financed jointly by club, district and multiple district. During my time as Multiple District Officer I continued the practise of meeting the cost meals when the young person and the family are away from the home on organised visits. This arrangement worked well as the young people pay a camp fee which is used for this purpose. The new officer will have to check with the current multiple district officer whether this policy will continue as if it does not then it becomes a barrier to finding hosts. If this district hosts a camp, then by tradition it does not host beforehand.
2. ARRIVAL - When the young people arrive with their hosts ask the hosts to contact you to confirm arrival. I always make regular checks with the hosts which if you run a program of events happens as a consequence.
3. DISTRICT PROGRAM - I planned the program and ran it leaving the hosts to join me if they wished but basically all I asked of them was to allow the participants to live with them to experience family life in our culture, but my program would relieve the burden of 24-hour hosting from them. As a result of this approach 105SE have hosted 8 to 10

participants which was one of the highest numbers in the whole of the MD. I used a minibus each year to facilitate the program and used the trains for London. I would arrange two trips to London for the group. The first was a day to look around the national exhibitions in Kensington and the second so they can visit the normal tourist attractions. Bear in mind that all young people are over 18 so they can explore London without adult supervision. I did however insist that they remained at least in pairs. I would go to London to be emergency contact on site so to speak. I would also create a WhatsApp group so they could use this to stay connected and I also sent them an underground map so that they could easily travel in London. The train tickets used were travel cards so they could use all public transport in the capital. I also joined English Heritage and signed up assistants at Lions expense. This meant that as members students can enter free of charge. Two of my trips were Dover Castle and Stonehenge. I claim from the district youth fund membership to English Heritage for hosts as this allowed up to six students to enter their facilities free.

4. SERVICE – An important aspect of the program is getting the young people involved in a service project. Over the years I have used several methods of either letting the clubs arrange this or arrange a group can take activity such as buying and planting trees or a litter pick of other similar environmental project.

5. TRAVEL TO CAMP – This is normally arranged by the district officer in liaison with the multiple district officer. I have always used the minibus for this purpose.

6. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS – District SE owns £1000 worth of instruments which is currently on loan to District CW. It will need to be brought back to SE after August. This is important as in the past MD have lost theirs. The instruments were bought by District SE funds provided by our clubs the last time we hosted a camp. The then district governor insisted I made an appeal to clubs to add additional funds for the camp. I did not need it as I produced a camp under £20,000 from the MD grant of £25,000. Whilst at the camp I was told that the venue was closing and would be selling off all their instruments in about 12 months' time. I held on to the donated money from the clubs and used it to buy the instruments.

The details above are not instructions to be followed as it is up to each Youth Exchange Officer how they organise the district hosting but over the many years I have held this post this is what I have found successful.

I am aware that with a three year break the new officer will need to build a new team of Lions to assist in hosting, trips and transport. I submit this report for the new officer to consider as a base to move forward and I wish them every good wishes.

Finally, I would like to thank all Lions who helped me make a success of this project in the past.

Young Leaders in Service Liaison – Steve Walden

Over the past year fortunately there have been many youth clubs. Schools have taken an interest in this programme up to date. Burgess Hill have been marvelous in signing four school children to different projects and as I'm writing this report I have just had a conversation with a Lion in Birmingham who has a family in Chatham who has two daughters who are going to do young leaders in service which will go towards their Duke of Edinburgh award.

Thank you to everyone who are taking part and please to all clubs take part and get candidates.

Young Ambassador Liaison – Val Roberts

This year has been very difficult for clubs to maintain contacts with schools and I am hoping that things will get back to normal this coming year. I will be sending out the latest newsletter very soon to encourage clubs' youth officers to get in touch with local youth clubs, schools and organisations with a view to identifying suitable candidates.

In the past we have had some excellent candidates from 6th forms or local colleges who were aged 17 or 18. It would be good to have more candidates of this age next year as they have usually had the opportunity to get involved in much more voluntary work in their communities than some of the younger ones we had this last couple of years. These youngsters have done sterling work in their own right and could probably progress to standing as excellent candidates for MD YA in the future when they have grown in confidence and experience.

The MD YO Sally Marsh has expressed an interest in revamping YA but this is on hold until we return to normal times. I am holding meetings with Sussex Clubs for Young People who are wanting to work more closely with me and YLIS to encourage their young people to do extra voluntary work and take on more leadership roles.

All club members are invited to the MD finals 18th - 20th February. This is a brilliant weekend - a chance to hear all the candidates' presentations and learn more about their projects. There is also time to visit Birmingham and Dudley with its Black Country Living Museum, fabulous markets and Zoo among other attractions. Currently this weekend is going ahead and the Village hotel is booked. With luck this will not have to be changed to a virtual meeting, as last year, because of ongoing Covid restrictions.

The Young Ambassador competition has unfortunately been cancelled at Dudley and will now be held again by zoom.

The event will take place on February 18th and 19th. This is such a shame because we will all miss out of a fabulous weekend but it does give the opportunity for any club member to hear all the candidates' speeches and watch the presentation of the awards to the winners.

I will send out the zoom link and programme for the two days as soon as I receive it.

Roar Officer – David Skinner

Following the success of the ROAR programme in 2020 the first five months have focussed on having ROAR accepted as a new Youth programme. With that achieved we focussed on informing interested Lions Clubs on recommended ways to engage schools. Lion Viv Diggins of Billingshurst Lions, who has assisted throughout, devised some information evenings and we engaged 42 schools through 15 Lions Clubs out of the MD total of 129 schools supported by 68 Lions Clubs. The schools prepared their innovative ideas as directed by our partners 8billionideas-8bi- and the ROAR finals were held in the schools. In many cases, local Lions were involved with judging and presenting awards, certificates and T-shirts. The winning team at each school made a video of their innovative idea and sent it to their District Judging teams and DG Ian selected the winning video and forwarded it to 8bi. In SE our winning team was from Wonersh and Shamley Green school supported by Cranleigh Lions with runners-up St Margaret's supported by Rottingdean and Saltdean Lions and Wisborough Green supported by Billingshurst Lions

The National Awards Day was presented in early December on Zoom by 8bi. The eight winning videos from each District were celebrated and a trophy was sent to each supporting Lions Club to present to the winning schools. 8bi also produced an edited video of the winning ideas and a video montage of the contributions from other schools and these have been placed on the MD Website and the links distributed to all Lions Clubs.

8bi estimated that the programme had involved around 12,000 children plus 200 teachers and some parents and the presentation was concluded by Council Chairman Richard. All engaged clubs have been encouraged to record their service hours for ROAR.