

40 students between the ages of 15 and 17 from across South Australia will participate in the inaugural Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing Future Sport Leaders Program. 10 Port Lincoln students have the opportunity to be selected. This is a fully funded program at no cost to participants.

Key highlights of the program include:

Learn: Understand the inner workings of a sporting club, the issues affecting sport and how to make sporting clubs more accessible to the community.

Develop your communication skills, leadership and emotional intelligence and undertake sporting medical support training.

Experience: Get first-hand experience within a community sporting club and apply your skills and learning practically.

The course consists of 4 elements - with 10 SACE credits awarded upon completion.

1. Physical Recreation - 3 months of Physical Activity (1 hour p/w for 3 months)

2. Voluntary Service - 3 months of volunteering at a community organisation/sporting club (1 hour per week for 3 months)

3. Skills Development - Workshops - including:

- How to Increase Participation in Sport (delivered by ORSR)
- How Does a Sporting Club Run (delivered by ORSR)
- Improving your Communication
- Developing your Life Skills and Emotional Intelligence (delivered by Global Community Sports)
- Maintaining your Member's Health (delivered by SA Sports Medicine Association)
- Communication workshop, focussing on the following areas: Confidence, running a meeting, grant writing, having difficult conversations, how to influence, social media training.

Plus 1 of either:

- Community Coaching Essential Skills (Delivered by Australian Sports Commission)
- Community Officiating Essential Skills (Delivered by Australian Sports Commission).

Most workshops will be delivered in person, with the Australian Sports Commission component completed online.

Workshops to occur between February and June 2026.

4. Adventurous Journey - Overnight stay at AFL Max, tour of new ORSR/SASI headquarters.

How is the 1 hour a week of physical activity structured?

Participants choose their own activities within a local Port Lincoln sporting or recreation club. If they're already connected to a club, they can continue there. Otherwise, they can select any approved local club. This flexibility allows students to fit the activity around their existing commitments.

Can volunteering be in any local club? Or only specific organisations?

Yes, volunteering can be done in any Port Lincoln sport or recreation club. There are no restrictions to specific organisations.

For the skills development aspect, what kind of coaching/officiating training is available? Are there accredited certificates?

Facilitators will come to Port Lincoln to deliver hands-on workshops covering coaching and officiating essentials. There are also online modules. The training is designed to be practical and valuable for future roles in sport. Participants can choose to complete one or both of the coaching and the officiating training.

Coaching course:

<https://www.ausport.gov.au/coaching/community/education/community-coaching-essential-skills>

The accredited certificate is the Australian Sports Commission's Community Coaching Essential Skills.

Officiating course:

<https://www.ausport.gov.au/officiating/education/essential-skills>

The accredited certificate is the Australian Sports Commission's Community Officiating Essential Skills.

How long does the program go for?

Typically 9 months, but participants have the flexibility of up to a year to complete all aspects of the program.

How flexible are the timeframes if schoolwork gets intense? How strict are the weekly requirements – what happens if you miss a week due to exams, illness, or sport commitments?

The program is designed to be flexible. While the weekly structure is encouraged (1 hour/week for 3 months of the learning modules, and 1 hour per week for 3 months for the physical activity and volunteering), there is understanding around school, sport, and health commitments. Students can catch up or adjust their schedule as needed, for example, you might miss training for one week but can make it up the next week. Your hours would need to equal the total hours required at the end of the 9 months.

Is it available for someone who doesn't live in Port Lincoln but goes to school there?

Yes, students who attend school in Port Lincoln are eligible, even if they live outside the area.

How are SACE points awarded through the program? Is there a project or portfolio requirement?

SACE points are granted upon full completion of the program—there is no need to submit a separate project or portfolio. Participants earn 10 SACE points along with the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Medallion. The Duke of Ed team verifies completion and coordinates with the school to allocate the points.

Is the program officially recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh Award, or do participants need to complete additional tasks?

No extra work is required. The program is fully aligned with the Duke of Edinburgh framework.

Are there any costs involved (uniform, transport, training fees), or is everything free?

The program is completely free. There are no out-of-pocket costs for participants.

Will there be mentors or coordinators guiding us through the program? Will each participant have a mentor or program coordinator to check in with?

The club that the participant is connected to will have an official contact, coordinating the participant's meaningful volunteer opportunities that verify their participation.

In addition, structure and support from the City of Port Lincoln and the Connected & Active Communities Project Officer will also be provided.

Is the program inclusive of students who aren't into sports — e.g. can the physical activity be something like walking, dance, or gym?

The physical activity must be done through a local club. Dance is eligible if it's club-affiliated. Activities like gym or walking are not eligible unless they're part of a recognised club (e.g. gym as part of training for netball/football etc, walking as part of orienteering or scouts etc.).

Is there a set schedule/calendar or is it more self-paced?

The skills development sessions / learning component of the program are scheduled based on all participating student's availability. There is flexibility to catch up if a session is missed due to other school or work commitments.

The physical and volunteering elements of the program are self-paced and designed to fit around school and sport commitments.

What does the “skills development” aspect of the program look like — is it workshops, online modules, or hands-on training?

It includes:

- Workshops delivered in person by accredited facilitators
- Hands-on training in coaching and officiating
- Online modules to support learning and flexibility

In addition to the above, toward the end of the program participants will take part in an 'Adventurous Journey' - a group excursion to a sports-related venue (such as AFL Max or SASI, with the exact location to be confirmed). This experience will combine physical activity with leadership development modules, offering a fun and immersive way to apply their skills in a new environment.

What kind of roles might the volunteering component include?

Volunteering roles can include:

- Coaching juniors
- Officiating matches (not trainings)
- Assisting with club events
- Helping with administration
- Supporting game-day operations (e.g. bake stalls, set-up and pack-down of game days)
- Equipment management

Volunteering activities will be logged via a Duke of Edinburgh app, or directly through the Connected and Active Communities Project Officer.

What opportunities might be available upon completion of the program, such as mentoring, further training, or employment pathways?

Upon completion of the program, participants will receive formal recognition from the Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing, be celebrated at an end-of-year presentation ceremony, and have the option to pursue the Silver or Gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

As this is a pilot program, further post-program pathways are still being developed. However, there are plans to explore future opportunities including mentoring younger leaders, access to advanced training, and potential employment pathways.

For further information contact:

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Nominations close midnight 12th November 2025.

Nominate now via the online form → <https://forms.office.com/r/K0Jk09wJCT>