



In support of



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed till 7.30pm, 1 September 2018

NEW IMMERSION PROGRAMME BY YOUTH CORPS SINGAPORE ENABLES YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TO DELVE INTO THE HEART OF SOCIAL ISSUES

- *President's Challenge Volunteer Drive and Youth Corps Singapore collaborate with partners to equip youths with skills for lasting social impact*

SINGAPORE 1 SEPTEMBER 2018 – 110 youth leaders will graduate from the Youth Corps Leaders Programme at the 4th Youth Corps Singapore (YCS) Leaders Commencement Ceremony held today at the Gardens by the Bay. The event is in support of President's Challenge Volunteer Drive (PCVD) 2018, with President Halimah Yacob gracing the ceremony as Guest-of-Honour. Please refer to Annex A for the media programme.

Youth Corps Singapore pilots Immersion Programme for Youth Leaders

Among the graduates are 22 youth leaders who were put on full-time job placements at various social service organisations for 10 weeks. They were part of the pilot YCS Leaders Programme (Immersion Track), aimed at reaching out to available volunteers that can be attached with a community partner full-time. YCS piloted the programme from April to June this year. YCS will scale up the Immersion Programme and increase the cohort size to 60 next year.

“The programme presented me with new insights on social work in Singapore. I saw the emotional hardships of the underprivileged while serving them. I’ve since grown to be more alert of my surroundings, and to look into the core of social issues”, said Hong Shao Yi, a student who was attached to Montfort Care – Kreta Ayer Family Services.

The Youth Corps Leaders Programme started with 90 youths in 2014. Since then, more than 1,000 youths from diverse backgrounds had gone through the Leaders Programme. To equip youths with the skills needed to make lasting impact on the community, YCS has partnered with President's Challenge's benefitting organisations, including social enterprise, Trybe Limited.

Youth Corps Singapore joins the President's Challenge Volunteer Drive

YCS has also partnered this year's President's Challenge Volunteer Drive, which is in support of SG Cares - a national movement to support the efforts of Singaporeans in building a more caring, compassionate and inclusive home for all.

Heeding President Halimah Yacob's call for more youth to lend their time and expertise in support of this year's President's Challenge Volunteer Drive (PCVD), YCS Leaders initiated 28 projects in their YCS Leaders Programme, partnering 12 community partners, impacting more than 1,900 beneficiaries, tackling social issues ranging from the elderly and persons with special needs, to caring for the environment. Two of the projects were done in partnership with benefitting organisations of President's Challenge – "Project Picturesque" with Metta Home and "Project JAM" with Trybe Limited.

Project Picturesque is a series of photography lessons using digital tablets, designed by YCS youth volunteers for 15 adult residents with intellectual disabilities (ID) at Metta Home. The project comprises bi-monthly outings and an exhibition showcasing the resident's photo pieces. Project JAM is a musical engagement session with seniors from Ren Ci Nursing Home, jointly brought by YCS youth volunteers and Trybe Limited.

President Halimah Yacob said, "I am heartened to see more youth organisations, such as Youth Corps and The Boys' Brigade, stepping up to nurture and empower our youth as volunteers, in support of President's Challenge. Not only do they volunteer their time, they also use their expertise and skills to enrich the lives of others. Moving forward, we can encourage more youth volunteers to take up skills based volunteering and leadership roles, to get them more involved in addressing social issues. This also helps the youths in their professional and personal development."

The Boys' Brigade (BB) is supporting President's Challenge Volunteer Drive 2018 under their BB CARES 2018 initiative. This year, BB CARES 2018 will focus on advocating for a healthier lifestyle

amongst the service users of President's Challenge, through activities such as health screening, home first aid, personal hygiene, family conversations and healthier choice eating. Student volunteers from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine will be conducting workshops to equip BB volunteers with the knowledge required to interact and befriend the service users.

Other educational institutions and organisations involved in youth volunteering activities in support of President's Challenge Volunteer Drive (PCVD) 2018 include Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Orchid Park Secondary School, The School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA), and The Singapore Scout Association.

The President's Challenge reaches out to the widest range of charities in Singapore, across various sectors including children and family services, healthcare and eldercare services, disability services, rehabilitation of ex-offenders, as well as sports, the arts, heritage, culture and nature which have social impact. Since 2012, the Challenge has expanded to go beyond fund-raising, by including volunteerism and social entrepreneurship.

From 2018, the President's Challenge will look into more customised and upstream support to help the most vulnerable change their circumstances through skills upgrading, capacity building and empowerment. The public can volunteer with or donate to charities of the above causes at www.pc.org.sg.

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About President's Challenge Volunteer Drive

The President's Challenge Volunteer Drive (PCVD) is a President's Challenge (PC) initiative where individuals, schools and organisations are encouraged to participate in a host of programmes and volunteer activities. PCVD aims to help people understand the critical needs facing the less fortunate in Singapore, and at the same time to experience the satisfaction of volunteerism.

Besides creating volunteer opportunities and matching the needs of benefitting organisations with interested volunteers, PCVD also carries out workshops to train volunteers to make them more effective and to enhance capability in the sector.

About Singapore Cares (SG Cares)

SG Cares is a national movement dedicated to building a more caring and inclusive home for all. The movement invites all who live in Singapore to put values into action through active volunteerism, ground-up efforts and everyday acts of care. It also aims to build capability across various sectors and organisations to grow opportunities for volunteering. By inspiring and supporting one another, we can show the world that we are a nation with a big heart.

www.sgcares.sg

About the National Youth Council (NYC)

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard, and have the ability to influence and make a difference to the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit.

About Youth Corps Singapore (YCS)

Launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and the National Youth Council, Youth Corps Singapore is a national institution that supports youths who are keen to serve the community. As the champion for youth volunteerism, it triggers collaboration between youths, community service organisations and the wider society to ignite positive change.

Youth Corps Singapore provides a platform for youths to receive life-skills training and mentorship throughout their volunteering journey, and meet like-minded peers with a strong esprit de corps that share the same service ethos. It provides both breadth and depth of volunteering opportunities for youths during and beyond their school days, through a diverse range of community service events, regular sector-specific volunteering opportunities, Youth Expedition Projects (YEP) and training and mentoring programme for volunteer leaders.

**Youth Corps Leaders Commencement Ceremony 2018
In Support of President's Challenge Volunteer Drive 2018**

Media Programme

Date : Saturday, 1st September 2018
 Venue : Flower Field Hall @ Flower Dome
 Gardens by the Bay
 18 Marina Gardens Drive, Singapore 018953

Time	Activity
5.30pm	Media registration
5.50pm	Arrival of Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth
5.55pm	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour, President Halimah Yacob
6.00pm	Introduction & Opening performance
6:15pm	Opening Remarks by Minister
6.25pm	Sharing by YCS Leaders
6.40pm	Commencement Video
6.45pm	Address by President Halimah
6.50pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate Presentation to YCS Leaders by President Halimah • YCS pledge led by Leaders • Group photo
7.25pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo & Video Exhibition of Projects – President Halimah and Minister to view the exhibits showcasing Leaders' projects
7.45pm	President Halimah takes her leave