

# New Programme Manager for the Young STEM Leader Programme

At the end of 2023, SSERC was delighted to appoint a new Programme Manager for The Young STEM Leader Programme (YSLP). This programme continues to grow from strength to strength, with over 1000 centres and 20000 young people having engaged with the programme since its inception. Below, we find out a bit more about Dr Sharon Macnab and the opportunities that participating in the Young STEM Leader Programme offers – focussing, of course, on the levels of the programme most relevant to Early Years and Primary.



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I have been truly inspired by the transformative impact of this programme on learners, their teachers, and other Tutor Assessors.

It's a sight to behold, seeing young people inspire, lead, and mentor their peers, families, and communities through the creation and delivery of STEM activities, events, and interactions. This experience not only enhances their confidence, communication, and teamwork skills, but it also instils a deep-rooted passion for STEM.

One of the strengths of the programme is that it is very much a learner-centred approach, with the young people having ownership over the direction of their activities.

Not only do they research and dispel stereotypes in STEM, but they themselves become STEM role models for others, building STEM capital. The programme is delivered in many ways, and whilst the following is not an exhaustive list, it highlights some of the amazing work undertaken in our schools across the country. We have secondary school pupils leading STEM clubs with P7 pupils, supporting transition activities and the move to high school. Science Fairs have been delivered full of parents, carers and other visitors but developed and hosted by young people. Young STEM Leaders have produced creative science podcasts, run homework clubs or supported study sessions.



Young STEM Leaders in Glasgow presenting their work at Leidos HQ in Skypark.



Young STEM Leaders from Mosshead Primary presenting skills at Strathclyde University.

The key thread of YSLP is that it is for young people by young people and supporting your learners to complete a Young STEM Leader Award is an excellent way to engage your whole learning community with STEM, and it's free for any school, youth centre or community organisation in Scotland.



**THERE ARE TWO VERSIONS OF THE PROGRAMME:**

**Non-formal**

The non-formal version of the programme is offered at Curriculum for Excellence Second, Third and Fourth Levels (known as YSL2, YSL3 and YSL4 (non-formal)). Each of these awards comprises four badges (Discover, Create, Inspire and Lead) and the completion of all four, leads to an award certificate for the YSLs. These awards are delivered typically, but not only in primary schools and the Broad General Education phase in Secondary schools with learners at these curricular levels.

**Formal**

Starting the programme at primary schools allows young people to progress on a journey through Formal Awards. The formal version of the programme comprises four awards at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Levels 4, 5 and 6 (known as YSL4 (formal), YSL5 and YSL6). Level 7 (STEM Leader 7) will launch in August 2024. Formal levels are typically delivered in the senior phase of secondary schools, in further education settings and within apprenticeship programmes. With these accredited awards, learners achieve SCQF Credit Points upon completion. Insight tariff points for relevant centres are also available, and YSL6 and SL7 are also featured on the UCAS system.

**How to get involved**

It's easy to start delivering the Young STEM Leader Programme by becoming a Tutor Assessor (TA). Training takes two hours and is delivered as an online twilight session by SSERC staff. If you have a group or cluster of teachers, we can come along for a face-to-face training session.

The training covers the award details, delivery approaches, assessment and verification. Our bespoke online platform for marking and reviewing evidence is also part of the training process.

All Young STEM Leader Awards are supported by a host of resources and support notes, including logbooks for the young people to track and record their STEM Leadership journey and activities and lesson plans for teachers. These are all available through an online portal, which also enables young people to upload videos, photos, etc.; however, paper copies are also available.

Training events run monthly throughout the year and you can book a session at [www.youngstemleader.scot/events](http://www.youngstemleader.scot/events).

Post training you'll join a professional network of almost 3000 Tutor Assessors and have access to support from the SSERC Team and further opportunities for training, sharing and meet sessions.

There's lots more information on [our website](#), so please take a few minutes to find out more at and join the Young STEM Leader Community.

If you need any more information at all, please email us at [youngstemleader@sserc.scot](mailto:youngstemleader@sserc.scot). <<

Young STEM Leaders showcasing their skills as part of SSERC's Pneumatics & Hydraulics course that their teachers participated in.

