

# Young Advisors Group (YAG) - Manifesto

## Our Vision

We want to:

- Provide opportunities for young people to develop skills and engage with the museum in and out of formal education.
- Ensure our schools programme for secondary audiences is always pitched accurately and is relevant by getting feedback directly from this audience.

We believe that:

- Young people should have a voice in the museum – this will enable us as a museum to better understand how we can improve offerings targeted at young people.
- Young people should be provided with the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the work that the Royal Observatory does.
- Young people can gain useful skills and knowledge from their participation in our programmes and/or activities.

## Why is the YAG needed at the ROG?

- It fits with our strategy and provides a way of delivering outcomes we could otherwise not deliver.
- We have a social responsibility to provide a way for this audience to be able to follow on from experiences they have had with us to continue their educational journey.
- To allow our programmes to be as open and accessible as possible.
- Family engagement ends at roughly age 14; the YAG is the next step for a young person to develop their lifelong relationship with us.

## Benefits for students:

- A place where they can build skills outside of school.
- An opportunity to develop specialist skills that a school environment wouldn't be able to provide.
- A chance to see how astronomers work in the real world and allowing them to do a little of what we do.
- A chance to develop their science and astronomy knowledge.

## What is the age range?

Students aged 14-18 and in full-time education can join the Young Advisors Group.

Keeping a small spread of ages within the group (between 14-18) means that there isn't too much disparity between the maturity and abilities of the students and the activities set will be suitable for all.

### **How will be allocate spaces in sessions?**

Although there is no cap on the number of students that can join the group, at present, no more than eight students can attend a YAG session and spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis where students must respond to a session invitation that is sent out via email.

### **How often will we ask for parental permission?**

At the start of each academic year (September) we will ask each member to provide a parental permission form so that we can ensure the students meet the criteria (14-18 and in full time education) for that upcoming year of sessions and for the purposes of safeguarding.

### **What is expected of YAG participants?**

- To provide a signed consent form at their first session which would be valid for the rest of that academic year.
- Be committed and do their best to attend each session and to attempt any pre-session activities that are set.
- Treat each other, and all people they interact with, politely and with respect. Any unfair or inappropriate treatment of others would not be accepted.
- No swearing, act sensibly and no rough games.

### **What is the role of the YAG coordinator?**

The YAG coordinator's role is to run the programme and facilitate all sessions.

The coordinator will:

- Accompany participants at all times while they are onsite.
- Answer queries that participants may have about the programme.
- Encourage students to participate in as many activities as possible.
- Do their best to ensure that the planned activities take place. If, for reasons beyond their control, a planned activity is unable to take place, the coordinator will provide students with a backup activity.
- Guide students through the activities and help out where needed.