

NIHERST NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

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NIHERST
NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RESEARCH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT ACT NO. 20 OF 1964

Our ref:

Your ref:

January 8th, 2019

Dear Principal,

NIHERST is pleased to announce that the 17th Caribbean Youth Science Forum (CYSF 2019) will take place from 4th to 11th August, 2019 at the NIHERST National Science Centre (NSC) and The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus.

CYSF is the longest standing non-formal education program for nurturing the next generation of scientists and engineers in the region. It is geared towards inspiring and mentoring young people towards advanced studies and careers in science, technology and innovation (STI). The week-long programme offers an invaluable opportunity for students to increase their knowledge, broaden their horizons, and develop a strong sense of regional identity as they engage with top professionals in diverse fields as well as their peers from other countries.

Specific Objectives

CYSF intends to develop the next generation of science and technology professionals from the Caribbean region whose knowledge and skills contribute to the improvement of society in the following ways:

- To deepen participants' understanding of the role and application of STI in society
- To expand participants' knowledge on important issues in STI that are relevant to Caribbean development
- To develop participants' skills in leadership, communication and teamwork
- To develop creative and critical thinking and problem solving skills among participants
- To build participants' knowledge of careers in science and technology

Target Group

CYSF brings together sixth form students, pursuing studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, from countries across the region including:

Antigua & Barbuda
Barbados
Cuba
Dominica

Grenada
Guyana
Jamaica
St. Kitts and Nevis

St. Vincent and the
Grenadines
St. Lucia
Trinidad and Tobago

Programme Content

NIHERST strives to keep all its initiatives and activities fresh and relevant to the ever changing needs of its target groups, particularly as new developments in science and technology and STEM education arise. Each year we continue to develop components of our CYSF programme to give students an even more engaging and diversified learning experience.

In addition to lecture presentations and hands-on, interactive workshops, students venture on field trips, network with distinguished professionals in STI fields, participate in a Problem Solving Challenge and Debate competition and are put to the test by a survival in the wild activity.

The academic programme will also be complemented by an array of entertaining activities that allow students to unwind, socialise and even showcase their talents to their peers.

All forum activities are ultimately geared towards providing opportunities for students to develop 21st century skills which are absolutely critical to their personal and professional development in the future.

Participants will reside at a UWI Student Hall of Residence.

How to Apply

We invite your Form Six (Upper & Lower) students to apply for the forum. **Applicants must be students who are pursuing two or more science subjects and who possess good oral and written communication skills.**

The application can be accessed via the following URL:

<http://bit.ly/1Rq75nq>

Please note that the applicant's Statement of Interest must be signed by the principal and/or affixed with a school stamp before uploading.

The application deadline is 10th May, 2019.

From the pool of applicants, students who meet the following criteria will be selected to participate in the forum. Please note that space at the forum is limited so an application does not guarantee a spot at the forum.

Selection Criteria for CYSF 2019 Participants

1. Participation is open to science students at the Form Six (6) levels – lower and upper.
2. Participants must be passionate about and have a keen interest in science.
3. Participants must show above average proficiency learning and innovation skills (creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration), evidenced by performance in a pre-forum challenge.

Pre-forum Challenge: Describe a common, everyday problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution. Demonstrate and present your solution in a 60 second video clip and submit to complete your application.

Fees

All **selected** participants are required to pay a **registration fee of TT\$1,650 or USD\$275**, either by cash or cheque payable to NIHERST **no later than 12th July, 2019**. All payments can be made to NIHERST, The National Science Centre, Corner Churchill Roosevelt Highway and Old Piarco Road, D'Abadie. The forum is heavily subsidized and the fee helps to cover the cost of accommodation, meals, ground transportation and forum materials. Breakfast, lunch and dinner with the exception of two (2) 'fast-food' nights will be provided for participants throughout the duration of the forum.

Please take note of the following recap of important dates. We would appreciate if you distribute a copy of this letter and flyer to your Sixth Form science teachers who should encourage their students to apply for this opportunity to represent their school.

Application Deadline: May 10th, 2019
Payment Deadline: July 12th, 2019
Forum Dates: 4th – 11th August, 2019

For further information, please call Ms. Rennee Rollock or Mr. Angelo Telemaque at 642-6112 ext. 236 / 291 respectively or send an email to cysf@niherst.gov.tt.

We certainly hope that students from your school will join us this year, and we thank you in advance for your support for CYSF 2019.

Yours truly,



Sylvia Lalla
Ag. President