

- **Spiritual Companionship:** The purpose and ultimate goal of this module is empower animators to develop the capacity to sympathise and empathise with students who are experiencing anxiety or grievances. Spiritual Companionship is the art and skill of supporting individuals to enable them to discover their wisdom and discernment.
- **Communication Skills:** The primary purpose of this module is to empower animators to communicate with junior youth with an appropriate level of skill and confidence. The core skills of communication such as listening, speaking and body language are covered as well as the skills of group consultation and collaboration.

- **Managing groups:** This module dissects the concept of group, and studies the dynamics of a group and the characteristics of a cohesive group.


Fees

The fee of the program is set to \$270 which includes the cost of handouts, accommodation, three meals and 3 refreshments per day. Students are expected to purchase their course books.

Application Procedure

All applicants are expected to complete the application form below and send it with a deposit of \$100 to the Programs Administrator by 10 March 2005.

Application Form
National Junior Youth Animators Training
21-26 April 2005



Surname: First Name: Date of Birth:

Current study/work:

Address:

State: Post Code: Tel: Home: Mobile:

E-mail:

Please tick your method of payment:
 Cheque Money order Credit Card Course Fee /Deposit: \$

Payable to: "Yerrinbool Bahá'í Centre of Learning"

Please debit my: Bankcard Mastercard

Visa Card Number:

Expiry Date:

Name on the Card: Signature:

Please send the completed form to Programs Administrator: 27 Sierra Street, Yerrinbool, NSW 2575.
 Phone: 02 4883 9552, Fax: 02 4883 9552, Mob: 0412 125 707, E-mail: admin@ybcl.org, www.ybcl.org

National Junior Youth Animators Training

21-26 April 2005



**Building Capacity to
be an Animator**

National Junior Youth Animators Training

Spiritual Education of Junior Youth

Spiritual education of junior youth has been considered by the Universal House of Justice of “paramount importance to the further progress of the community.” (Ridvan message of 157) As the result of this call, the Bahá’í communities worldwide have devised initiatives for spiritual development of junior youth through the institute process and their involvement in the life of the community (Universal House of Justice, Ridvan 158).

In addition, the latest studies indicate that spiritual education plays a critical role in the character development of junior youth. Adolescence is a time of intense search for, and openness to, the transcendent. This personal devotion and relationship with the Divine in adolescents is quite beneficial in ensuring their mental health. In particular, such tendency has been identified with reduced risk-taking, more effectively resolving feelings of loneliness, greater regard for self and others, and a stronger sense that life has meaning and purpose.

Hence, the implementation of wide-scale systematic junior youth programs is quite urgent. In the heart of such a process is the need for programs to train facilitators who can effectively run junior youth groups. Such facilitators are known as “animators.”

The National Junior Youth Animators training program launched by Yerrinbool Bahá’í Centre of Learning is an attempt to initiate the process of developing a national curriculum for the training of animators through action learning.

“Among the young ones in the community are those known as junior youth, Creative attention must be devoted to involving them in programmes of activity that will engage their interests, mold their capacities for teaching and service, and involve them in social interaction with older youth. The employment of the arts in various forms can be of great value in such activity.”

(The Universal House of Justice, Ridvan 157, 2000)

The training program is open to those who are 17 years of age or above.

National Framework

The National Spiritual Assembly has recommended the following framework for the spiritual education of junior youth:

- The book “Breezes of Confirmation” for age 10.
- The book, “Walking the Straight Path” for age 11.
- The Book, “Drawing on the Power of the Word” for age 12.
- Education for Peace program for ages 13-14.

The three books mentioned above need a significant amount of supporting materials. This can be provided by materials developed through other programs such as Junior Youth Curriculum development Western Australia, and Educare All Australia.

Goals

Based on the experience of Yerrinbool Bahá’í Centre of Learning (YBCL) in running Education for Peace and the training program developed for its facilitators, some initial goals are defined determining the scope and direction of this program. Accordingly, the training program will assist the participants to acquire the concepts, attitudes and skills that contribute to the capabilities of:

- (a) Effectively introducing and facilitating junior youth programs defined in the national framework.
- (b) Empowering and encouraging junior youth in their spiritual development.
- (c) Effectively communicating with junior youth and understanding their characteristics and challenges.
- (d) Showing moral leadership and being an example through words and deeds.

Curriculum

Within the defined framework, the initial curriculum will consist of the following modules:

- **Introduction to junior youth programs within the national framework:** At this stage the focus will be on the programs designated for ages 10-12. Due to time constraints, training for Education for Peace takes place in a separate program called Education for Peace Leadership during December.
- **Art of Facilitation:** The focus of this module is on how the activities of a group can be managed in order to facilitate specific learning outcomes.
- **Moral Leadership:** This module assists the participants to acquire an understanding of the six elements of a conceptual framework of Moral Leadership, and a daily practice of the capabilities for moral leadership, within the context of being a junior youth animator.