YPI Scotland

Judging Pack – 2026/27

Thank you for generously giving your time to act as a judge for the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) final showcase. You play an important role and we are grateful for your support.

YPI empowers young people to explore the issues that matter most to them and to advocate for local charities making a real difference in their communities. The final showcase is the culmination of weeks of hard work, research, and teamwork. For many students, it is their first experience of public speaking, charity engagement, and community-driven action.

As a judge, you bring valuable insight and experience. Your feedback helps students grow in confidence and develop the skills that will serve them far beyond this programme. Most importantly, your decision will direct a £3,000 grant to a local charity selected and championed by the winning team.

In this pack, you will find an overview of YPI, details of the judging process, and the scoring sheet for each presentation. We hope you find the experience enjoyable as well as inspiring.

Thank you again for supporting YPI and for helping young people become active citizens and compassionate leaders in their communities.

With sincere appreciation,

Garreth Wood, MBE
Chairman of The Wood Foundation

The Wood Foundation

Operational Manager and Principal Funder of YPI in Scotland

With thanks to our Funding Partners

National Partner of YPI

Principal Funder of YPI in the Highlands

Principal Funder of YPI in Dundee and Angus

Principal Funder of YPI in Dumfries & Galloway

Principal Funder of YPI in Aberdeen

Community Partner of YPI in Glasgow

Community Partner of YPI in Scotland

Community Partner of YPI in Perth & Kinross

Founder: Sir Ian Wood, KT GBE (1942 - 2026) Trustees: Dr Garreth Wood, MBE (Chairman), Lady Helen Wood, Graham Good and Andrew Walker.
The Wood Foundation, Scottish Registered Charity No.SC037957 is the Parent Charity of The Wood Foundation Africa, registered in Scotland as a company limited by guarantee and having charitable status. Company No. SC361033. Scottish Charity No. SC040580
© The Wood Foundation 2026/27

Introduction to YPI

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Scotland

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is a powerful active citizenship programme, empowering young people to make a difference in their communities.

As the biggest independent initiative being delivered in Scottish education, each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3000 to a local charity championed by its students through a unique programme of teamwork, research, and competition. YPI engages a full year group of students, developing skills and confidence through a contextualised learning experience. The programme raises awareness of social issues and local charities and is a vital means of devolved, locally driven grant-making. YPI is managed and principally funded by The Wood Foundation. A dedicated team works in partnership with all participating schools to fully realise the opportunity for their settings.

280
schools delivering YPI in 2026/27

£9.3M
has been granted to charities across Scotland since 2008

430,000
students engaged in YPI since 2008

32
local authorities delivering YPI in 2026/27

Outline of the Process

One of the strongest attributes of YPI is the flexibility of the programme with respect to delivery timeline, participating year group and academic timetabling. With this in mind, we are not prescriptive in terms of how YPI aligns with the broader curriculum as this is very much dependent upon each school context.

Young people typically follow the following process:



What can you expect at the Showcase Final?

Teams of students present to:

- Share knowledge and understanding of social issues and charities.
- Demonstrate how they have connected with and learnt about their chosen charity.
- Explain how £3000 would positively impact on their charity and local community.
- Show how YPI has helped develop skills.
- Try to win the £3000 grant.



Founder: Sir Ian Wood, KT GBE (1942 - 2026) Trustees: Dr Garreth Wood, MBE (Chairman), Lady Helen Wood, Graham Good and Andrew Walker.
The Wood Foundation, Scottish Registered Charity No.SC037957 is the Parent Charity of The Wood Foundation Africa, registered in Scotland as a company limited by guarantee and having charitable status. Company No. SC361033. Scottish Charity No. SC040580
© The Wood Foundation 2026/27

Your Role as a Judge

As a judge, you will be required to assess how well teams presenting in the YPI Showcase Final have met the specific criteria. Ultimately as a judging panel, you are required to choose a winning team that will be awarded the £3000 YPI grant.

The winner should be the presentation that most closely meets the judging criteria and not what you would consider the worthiest charity.

On the next page, you will find the judging sheet. You will be given one sheet per finalist team, and this outlines what you will be looking for. All presenting students should be aware of the criteria and have prepared their presentations accordingly. A member of The Wood Foundation team will be present to support and facilitate the judging process.

Important Information:

You are not assessing which charity you believe could most benefit from the grant or which you think is most worthy – all charities are deserving. Your task, as a YPI judge, is to assess as per the judging criteria, which group of students have put the best case forward for their chosen charity.

There are likely to be sensitive social issues addressed during the presentations. If you have any reservations or concerns, please feel free to inform a member of school staff or The Wood Foundation representative who can tell you which social issues and charities will be discussed at the final.

Here are some criteria to look out for:

Knowledge and Understanding

- We are looking for students to show understanding of their chosen social issue and how it affects people.
- YPI should not be only a classroom-based exercise. Have the students conducted active research to find out about what the charity does to help people?

Connection and Commitment

- YPI is an opportunity for students to advocate on behalf of something that they care about. We want to see their passion and commitment coming through!
- Did the students connect with the charity?
- Were the students able to put forward a convincing, compelling and passionate case?

Business Case and Impact

- By the end of each presentation, you should be able to understand and appreciate the local impact that the £3000 grant will have.
- Students should also share how taking part in YPI has impacted upon them and what skills they have developed?

Presentation and Creativity

- YPI is an opportunity for students to improve their confidence and presentation skills.
- We want students to have explored using engaging ways to get their message across.
- Was their presentation creative and engaging?

The Programme Officer will confirm if you can ask clarifying questions after each presentation. This is an important opportunity to explore any aspects of the judging criteria that you remain uncertain about. For example, asking for more detail on how the students engaged with their charity, the business case, or how they have been impacted by taking part in YPI. The Programme Officer will also time each presentation.

Founder: Sir Ian Wood, KT GBE (1942 - 2026) Trustees: Dr Garreth Wood, MBE (Chairman), Lady Helen Wood, Graham Good and Andrew Walker.
The Wood Foundation, Scottish Registered Charity No.SC037957 is the Parent Charity of The Wood Foundation Africa, registered in Scotland as a company limited by guarantee and having charitable status. Company No. SC361033. Scottish Charity No. SC040580
© The Wood Foundation 2026/27

YPI Judging Sheet

Charity Name: _____ **Social issue addressed:** _____

To be eligible for a grant, a charity must be OSCR-registered, positively impact the local community, and provide services to people.

Notes:

- Judges may ask clarifying questions after each presentation with permission.
- All team members should be involved in the presentation, but may not all speak.
- Videos and other material used in presentations should ideally be original creations by students. Limited use of professional and charity-produced media is permitted, but whether their use was effective will be at the discretion of the judging panel.
- During deliberations, feedback for each team will be recorded.

	Very Effective	Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not Effective	Not Present
Knowledge and Understanding					
Understand the social issue and **show how it affects people locally**.					
Know what the charity **does to help people in the local community**.					
Connection and Commitment					
Demonstrate the **times and ways** they have **connected with the charity**.					
Persuade others **why** the social issue and charity are **important**.					
Describe how they have **helped the charity** or have plans to do so in the future.					
Business Case and Impact					
Explain how the charity will **spend £3000** to **help people in the local community**.					
Demonstrate how YPI has developed their **skills**.					
Presentation and Creativity					
Presentation content **makes sense** and is **clear to follow**.					
Presentation **holds an audience's attention**.					
Creative elements make the presentation **stand out**.					
Presentation should be between **5 to 10 minutes**.					
Overall impressions/notes for feedback, including what went well and even better if:					

Please don't hesitate to contact the YPI Team by emailing ypi@thewoodfoundation.org.uk if you have any questions or feedback.

Founder: Sir Ian Wood, KT GBE (1942 - 2026) Trustees: Dr Garreth Wood, MBE (Chairman), Lady Helen Wood, Graham Good and Andrew Walker.
The Wood Foundation, Scottish Registered Charity No.SC037957 is the Parent Charity of The Wood Foundation Africa, registered in Scotland as a company limited by guarantee and having charitable status. Company No. SC361033. Scottish Charity No. SC040580
© The Wood Foundation 2026/27