



ST. LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST

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*Patron: Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy
Governor General of St. Lucia*

Press Release

Stirring up a Spirit of Advocacy in our Youth

The first ever Youth Environment Forum (YEF) is expected to get underway from July 13-17, 2009. The Forum, organized by the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) in collaboration with national youth organizations and public sector partners is geared towards empowering youths to become advocates for environment and heritage conservation.

SLNT believes these types of programmes are critical to engage young people in protecting their heritage while giving them the tools to speak boldly and knowledgably on these matters. The Forum will cater to some 70 students from all the educational districts in Saint Lucia in the following age groups; 7-10, 11-14 and 15-18. The students will participate in a range of educational and other exciting activities which include conducting experiments, vibrant discussions on various environmental and heritage topics and going on tours among many other activities.

So how does one participate? The process is simple yet competitive; interested applicants are to fill out a questionnaire, which will be available at their respective schools and on our website at www.slunatrust.org. Students should then submit the completed forms to their teachers who will return them to the District Education Offices no later than **Friday, June 12, 2009**. All the questionnaires will be collected and scrutinized by a special panel after which successful candidates will be contacted ahead of the Forum.

We are aware of the tough economic times, as such the Youth Environment Forum is absolutely free of cost, thanks to funding from international and local entities. The Saint Lucia National Trust hopes that schools will encourage students to take full advantage of this opportunity to become advocates for the conservation of their precious island, Saint Lucia.

May 13, 2009

Bishnu Tulsie
Director