



Best New Programme Award Regional Winner Profile

Wellington, Wairarapa, Kapiti Coast, Levin

The Lighthouse Youth Programme

How many children attend your programme?

We have 15 children at our after school programme and 20 children during the holidays.

How many staff do you have?

2, with 1 relief staff.

What does a typical day at your OSCAR programme look like?

Staff arrive 2pm and set up for the day. They meet with Lighthouse O.S.C.A.R staff at 2.30 pm for quick meeting to catch up on any changes/cancellations etc. At 3.15pm young people begin arriving; some via the Lighthouse vans from primary schools. Others are walking, biking or busing from college. Those here early help up in the younger children's programme serving the afternoon teas.

At 4pm all have arrived and go down to Lighthouse Youth café and settle in to the most important part of the day - making their own afternoon tea! Toasted sandwiches, weetbix milkshakes, hot chocolate, decafe cappuccino or latte, herbal teas; all the time practicing the food handling skills they have been taught. Their latest tunes are usually playing loudly on the ipod dock and lots of important teen catching up occurs!

Between 4.30-5.30pm activities at this time of day fluctuate according to the day of the week. If it's a Monday they will sit down to make their written plan for the week, Tuesday to Thursday will be a mixture of fun activities, such as riding the programmes quad bike or motorised go-cart, water fights, walks to the beach, or painting the mural in the toilet. Other days more structured activities such as shopping for food for the café, learning food handling and preparation, coffee making and, one day a week, planning and running an activity for the Lighthouse kids programmes. Arts and crafts supplies are freely available for use along with a computer lab for homework

At 5.30-6.30pm young people clean the café according to their cleaning roster, with a few moans and groans, and gradually leave either biking, walking or some are picked up as pre-organised in their transport agreement.

Please provide 5 children's quotes on why they love coming to your programme?

"I think Lighthouse Youth is awesome because we are more independent and have more freedom to do what we want. I also enjoy that we get to choose the activities we do." *Jessica, aged 12 years.*

"I like Lighthouse Youth because it is a great place just to hang out. We get lots of freedom to do what we want and it's a really fun place to be." *Callum, aged 13 years.*

"Lighthouse Youth is a cool place to hang out after school. We get awesome





afternoon teas and taught how to make coffees. We walk down to the beach and other cool places." *Nick, aged 12 years.*

"Lighthouse Youth is awesome. We get to run our own café. We get taught café skills like how to make coffees, how to use good manners to talk to customers and cleaning skills. We have great supervisors!" *Kaely, aged 12 years.*

"I think Lighthouse Youth is awesome because you meet new people and choose what you do. It's really fun. You do café skills. Its soooo cool. It also makes you feel independent, mature, and responsible." *Katie, aged 12 years.*

Why should you become The OSCAR Foundation National Award winner?

Lighthouse Youth was birthed in February 2009 out of a need in our community for a programme that would cater for the older age group (12-14 years).

Extensive consultation occurred with Lighthouse families, the community, schools, colleges and local youth aid officers to develop the core structure of the programme.

Young people and their parents had input in all aspects of designing the programme i.e. the logo, color scheme, choosing the coffee machine and, most importantly, the sound system! They designed their own behavioural contract and art work for around the walls. This input has been vital to the programmes success.

The programme enriches the lives of the young people as it provides a fun, safe after school/college option, pre-works skills, leadership training and a space where they want to be!

The programme has strong connections with its local community and we offer a "community service" activity every term, such as a Good Deeds Day for our elderly neighbours or a Car Wash to raised funds for a Picton trip.

Every Friday night the young people open up their café developing their café skills and providing their peers with a fun safe place to hang out (there are a lack of activities for youth in the Kapiti area).

We have excellent support from our families, great lines of communication, and this is vital for the teenage years with all the issues that can arise.

As our vision statement states we are "partnering with our parents to help grow their teenagers into responsible/caring/confident young adults."

