



Be a  
#ForceForNature

## Speak up for Trees and Nature

### Competition Guide

Inspire your Young Tree Champions to find their voice and turn their knowledge, ideas and feelings about trees, nature and the climate and ecological crisis into a powerful speech. Then help them share their speech to inspire their friends, school, family and even the nation.

Here are some steps to help you:

1. Talk to your Young Tree Champions about the competition opportunity. Reflect with them on ways they can be a Force for Nature and connect, learn and share their knowledge, ideas and passion through this competition. Inspire your students by [watching last year's entries](#).
2. Find out more information about how to support your students with their speeches by watching [this brilliant webinar](#) led by Speakers Trust.
3. Judge the competition entries in your school. There is judging criteria on the next page that you can use. Decide on your top 5 speeches. Each speech must be **no longer than 2 minutes**.
4. You can only enter **one winning speech per school**, so organise a second round of judging or an assembly to select a winner to be put forward to the national competition. Involve the headteacher or other teachers with selecting your winning speech.
5. Film your winning entry and upload it as a video clip on the club space by **Tuesday 30 May**. We will showcase winning entries on our website.
6. Our final winner will have the chance to perform live at the Force for Nature Expo on **Thursday 15 June 2023** at Birmingham Botanic Gardens.

You may also want to share and celebrate your top 5 runners up on your school's website or on social media using the hashtag #ForceforNature! You can download a certificate for your runners up [from the club space](#) and your national finalist when you upload their entry. We look forward to hearing your Young Tree Champions find their voices and Speak Up for Trees and Nature.

Good luck and may the Force of Nature be with you!



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who can enter the competition?

Any young person of school age! Just make sure your school or organisation has set up a [free club account](#).

### How many entries can one school upload?

The national competition is limited to one video entry per school or organisation.

### When is the deadline?

The deadline for schools is midnight **Tuesday 30 May 2023**.

### How long are the speeches?

Each speech must be no longer than 2 minutes.

### What categories are there for the competition?

1. Age 5-7 (KS1)
2. Age 7-9 (Lower KS2)
3. Age 9-11 (Upper KS2)
4. Age 11-16 (Secondary School)
5. Age 16+ (College or Sixth Form)
6. Special School

### Why have some schools received support from Speakers Trust?

Some schools were selected to receive additional support from Speakers Trust for two reasons:

- 1) The high percentage of Free School Meals in their school.
- 2) The impact their project is having in their school as evidenced in their project application.

### Is this additional support considered in the judging process?

Yes.

### Who will be judging our competition entry and what criteria will they be using?

Our judges are specially selected teachers, our Young Tree Champion senior Ambassadors, expert speakers and The Tree Council team. They will be using the same judging criteria as schools.



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### What is the topic of the speeches?

The broad topic of the speeches is trees, nature and tackling the climate and ecological crisis by 'Speaking Up for Trees and Nature'.

### Why speak up for trees and nature?

Trees have a critical role to play in balancing the Earth's climate. Trees and forests provide a home for millions of different species of plants, insects and animals, which are vital to supporting life on Earth. Trees provide the oxygen we need to breathe, the water and the food and materials we need to live. Research has shown that trees even help us feel calm and relaxed, reducing our stress levels and improving our health and wellbeing.

### How can we produce a powerful speech?

Watch the webinar delivered by Speakers Trust and use the judging criteria below.

- **Content**  
A positive message which connects with their audience. Original ideas, interesting knowledge, a unique #ForceForNature message (max 20 points).
- **Delivery**  
Use of voice and body language to increase the impact of the speech (max 20 points).
- **Structure**  
A 'hook' at the beginning. Carefully crafted content. A message, action or challenge at the end (max 20 points).

### Are there prizes?

Yes, every school or organisation that uploads a speech (selected from their top 5) will receive a National Finalist certificate. The winner of each category will be awarded a £200 Go Ape Voucher to enjoy with family and friends. There will also be prizes for the runners up!

### When will the winners be announced?

Winners will be notified on Friday 2 June.

If you have any other questions, please email us at [schools@treecouncil.org.uk](mailto:schools@treecouncil.org.uk)