



19th International Earth Science Olympiad 2026

Turin, 20-27/08

Chair:

Prof.ssa Susanna Occhipinti

Contacts:

info@ieso2026-to.com

www.ieso2026-to.com

Young Reporters Initiative (YoRI) - by IUGS

Welcome to the **Young Reporters Initiative (YoRI)**, a global community of passionate young people using geoscience to make a difference. Backed by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), YoRI empowers youth to explore, explain, and share how Earth and climate science impacts everyday life—from natural hazards and water challenges to sustainable cities and clean energy.

We're not just storytellers we're leaders. At YoRI, young reporters play a central role in shaping the initiative. Each regional representative serves as a focal point in their country or country, helping grow the network, guide local activities, and build lasting impact with a strong focus on **inclusion and leadership from the Global South**.

Through videos, essays, campaigns, and workshops, we inform the public about science that matters—and we train and mentor new communicators to do the same. Whether you're a student, young scientist, journalist, or advocate for the environment, YoRI is your platform to learn, create, and connect.

IESO 2026 will host the **YoRI Awards**! This is not a traditional competitive examination, but an opportunity to express scientific creativity and communication skills. All entries will be evaluated by an international jury according to clear, published criteria.

Four award **categories** are available:

- Top award: a short documentary (5–15 min, vertical 9:16) on an environmental issue or geological heritage site, with mandatory English subtitles.
- Second award: a science journalism piece (500–1,200 words) on a locally relevant topic, with an English translation or summary.
- Third award: a short, high-impact video (max 60 seconds, vertical 9:16) communicating one clear geoscientific idea.
- Honorable mention: a photograph or series (up to 3 images) depicting a geological or environmental feature, with an explanatory caption.

To participate: Send your entry to iugs.yori@gmail.com and ieso2026.to@gmail.com before 25/07



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Category 1 — Mini-Documentary

A short documentary that informs, engages, and inspires — science communication at its best.

Format & Technical Requirements

- Accepted formats
 - Horizontal format (16:9), optimized for mobile viewing.
 - vertical format (9:16), landscape view (suitable for Youtube videos).
 - MP4
 - Minimal resolution of 1080:1920 (vertical) or 1920:1080 (horizontal).
- Duration: 5 to 15 minutes
- Language: any language is accepted
- English subtitles are mandatory
- Clear, high-quality audio — no background noise
- Must start with YoRI's intro video.
- Must include the IUGS and YoRI logos (provided by the organization)
- [Optional] Vertical and horizontal format versions, to assure compatibility across several platforms and increase outreach.

Content Requirements

- Must address an environmental issue or a site/element of geological heritage
- Must address a topic of current relevance in the participant's country or region — an ongoing environmental issue, a recent geological event, or a heritage site under threat
- A coherent narrative thread from beginning to end — it must tell a story, not just present facts

Bonus Points

- Original music or sound design
- Motion graphics, animations, or creative visual elements
- Interviews with local community members, scientists, or affected people
- Original footage (not stock video)

Evaluation Criteria

Visual appeal and production quality · Narrative coherence · Scientific accuracy · Educational value · Creativity and originality · Relevance of topic.

Check examples here.



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Category 2 — Science Written Report

A written piece in the style of science journalism — rigorous, accessible, and relevant.

Format & Technical Requirements

- Word document of 500 to 1,200 words
- Language: any, with an English translation or summary (min 300 words)
- Must include at least one high-quality image (photo, map, or diagram) with caption and credit, named according to placement in the text (e.g., Figure1.png)
- Must include five keywords and a synopsis of 155–165 characters
- Must include a reference list (minimum 3 sources, any common citation style accepted — APA, MLA, etc.)
- Must include the participant's name in the document

Content Requirements

- Must address a topic of current relevance in the participant's country or region
- Written for a general audience, not specialists
- Must have a clear angle: why does this matter now?
- Topic must align with one of the YoRI suggested report categories: Climate Change and Geosciences, Geoscientific Hazards, Natural Resources for Sustainability, Environmental Geology, Geotechnology and Scientific Advancements, Geology Development and Culture, or Activism. Participants may also propose a new category if their topic falls outside these themes.
- Avoid copying and pasting content without proper citation. The report must be the participant's own work.

Structure

The report should include: a captivating title, a short introduction explaining the purpose and importance of the topic, a body organized into sections with geographic context (maps, named locations), high-quality images referenced throughout the text, and a list of references at the end.

Evaluation Criteria

Clarity and accessibility of writing · Scientific accuracy · Relevance and timeliness of topic · Quality and relevance of supporting images · Structure and flow

Check examples [here](#).



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Category 3 — GeoReel

A punchy, eye-catching short video that makes geoscience impossible to scroll past.

Format & Technical Requirements

- Vertical format (9:16)
- Duration: maximum 60 seconds
- Language: any, with English subtitles (mandatory)
- Minimum 1080p quality
- IUGS and YoRI logos must appear (beginning or end)

Content Requirements

- Must communicate one clear geoscientific idea or message
- Engaging from the first 3 seconds — the hook is essential
- Scientifically accurate, even if the format is informal or creative

Bonus Points

- Original transitions, effects, or visual style
- Use of real fieldwork footage or local landscapes
- On-camera presence (participant appears in the video)
- Use of trending audio

Evaluation Criteria

Visual impact and hook · Clarity of message · Scientific accuracy · Creativity · Educational value within the format

*This is a new category so we don't have our own examples, but you could take ideas from [here](#).



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Category 4 — GeoLens

A photograph that you have taken during the field trips organized by the IESO. This one is a photograph that makes you stop, look, and think about the Earth beneath your feet.

Format & Technical Requirements

- Single image or series of up to 3 photos
- Minimum resolution: 2MB per image
- Must include a title and a caption (max 150 words) explaining the geological or environmental significance
- Language: any, with English caption mandatory

Content Requirements

- Must depict a geological feature, environmental issue, or element of Earth heritage
- The caption must answer: what are we looking at, where is it, and why does it matter?

Evaluation Criteria

Visual impact and composition · Geological or environmental relevance ·
Quality and depth of caption · Ability to spark curiosity or reflection



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AI Use Policy

The use of Artificial Intelligence tools is permitted in all YoRI contest categories, provided that participants submit a **mandatory AI Transparency Statement** together with their entry.

The statement must specify:

1. Which AI tools were used (name and version).
2. For what specific purpose each tool was used.
3. What the participant's own original contribution was.

Entries submitted without an AI Transparency Statement will not be accepted. Incomplete or dishonest declarations may result in disqualification. The quality and honesty of the statement is considered as part of the overall evaluation.

Evaluating Criteria

Your submitted work will be evaluated by a jury based on the following criteria, which are graded from 1 to 10.

1. Scientific accuracy
2. Communicative effectiveness
3. Creativity and originality
4. Relevance and timeliness
5. Format quality (depending on the specific format requirements category)