Welcoming new members...

YFC thrives as a result of new members joining the organisation each year, bringing fresh ideas, enthusiasm and diversity with them. YFC embraces this.

Before officially joining as a paid-up member, it’s common for new members to attend a couple of meetings and then decide whether or not it’s for them. Hopefully they will decide it is and at that point decide to join. YFCs have different ways of marking this occasion and it’s important to do so.

NFYFC would encourage YFCs to have ‘Welcome of new members’ on the club’s agenda. The chairman/woman can formally introduce the new member(s), stating their name, where they live, where they work or go to school or college. The new member(s) could be invited to talk a little about their interests and what they are looking forward to in YFC, but this is voluntary. This will be officially recorded in the minute book.

Gone are the days when new members are voted in by existing members. It’s not constitutional or appropriate because it could be deemed to be discriminatory. It could also potentially cause upset and anxiety for the new member if they don’t know any of the existing club members well enough to be voted in and added stress and embarrassment if no one votes them in.

YFC is open to all young people aged between 10 and 26 living or working in rural areas whatever their background and we welcome a diverse membership.
Welcome information for parents...

Welcome to YFC
You’ve made an excellent decision choosing YFC for your child. These factsheets will provide you with essential information to ensure that they get the most out of their involvement in YFC.

About YFC
YFC provides the opportunity for young people to develop and learn in a fun, safe environment by participating in a diverse and educational club programme, which has been put together by members. YFC is open to any young person of any ethnic background, mental or physical capability and of any sex between the ages of 10 and 26.

Club officers and the supervision of under-18s.
Meetings are organised and run by members, with the help of club leaders. The club officers, including chairman/woman, vice-chairman/woman, secretary, treasurer, leader are elected annually and have overall responsibility for the club and the activities in which members take part.

At least two of the above officers will be at every club meeting or event as well as taking responsibility for the under-18s present that day or evening. These officers are DBS checked and have had to provide suitability and character references. They are also expected to attend safeguarding training organised through the county federation. In addition, all staff employed by the county federation and NFYFC undergo these same checks.

Club leaders
Together with the club officers, there is a team of adult volunteers who are elected to help support the club with activities, such as fundraising, programme planning and helping members to develop new skills. A club leader is DBS checked, as is any other frequent YFC helper, and has had to provide references.

Club meetings
All members are involved in putting forward ideas for the programme and a nominated few are tasked with the responsibility of organising it. Generally, the programme is planned seasonally to include a mixture of practical hands-on activities, training and competition practice, guest speakers and social events. The club has regular meeting times and for up-to-date information refer to the club programme.

Come in and see what happens if you want to know more or speak to one of the club leaders.
**Behaviour and discipline**

All members are expected to behave appropriately. Inappropriate behavior that has an impact on other members isn’t tolerated. Minor incidents will generally be dealt with by the chairman/woman at his/her discretion, which could simply be a talk with the member. Parents will be contacted if more serious incidents occur, such as bullying or fighting and members involved are under 18. The member(s) could face suspension, depending on the circumstances. Older members, and particularly club officers, are expected to set a good example to younger members.

**Additional needs**

Whilst YFC welcomes all young people to join, the officer team are not specifically trained to work with young people with additional needs. If your child requires additional help with any activity or has any particular needs, please speak to one of the club officers to arrange how the team can work with you to support your child. For example arranging for a trained sessional worker to support their participation. Where YFC can accommodate additional needs they will aim to do so.

**Member obligations**

Members are expected to take an active role in activities. We suggest that members:

- Go to club meetings
- Attend and participate in the county rally competitions
- Take part in fundraising and promotional events
- Attend at least two county federation events in the year to promote YFC.

If any member has to miss a meeting due to any other commitments, they should send their apologies for absence to the secretary.

**Financial matters**

The club’s main source of income is its annual subscriptions. This not only covers the basic costs of the club programme, but a certain amount goes to the county federation towards costs incurred running the county programme and employing staff. In addition, an agreed amount will go to NFYFC to contribute towards the programme development carried out by the National Federation. In some cases, the annual subscription covers the cost of insurance, which is provided by NFU Mutual to every member participating in organised and planned events and meetings. There are some clubs that collect the insurance premium separately.

Annual subscriptions are due on 1 September and should be paid promptly. Members must be in receipt of a current membership card to be covered by the insurance. Some events, such as a club disco or a trip may require an additional payment. Costs vary and details will be circulated during meetings and well in advance of the date.
We need you!
Help is needed in many areas and your support is essential if the club is to run as it should. This responsibility should not fall on the heads of a few volunteers, and your child will also benefit from a demonstration of your commitment to the club as well as their own.

Parents are asked to help in any manner they can, such as ensuring that their child arrives on time for meetings, helping out on a club night by setting up tables or perhaps helping to clear up for a week or two. If you wish to help out at a club night or special event, please speak to one of the club officers as you may have to complete a safe recruitment check to ensure the safety of all members.

All parents are asked to be vigilant, bringing their child directly into the building and ensuring a club officer knows that he/she has arrived. We also request that parents collect their child promptly from the meeting venue at the appointed end time.

Concerns
If you have any questions regarding YFC that have not been answered in this information, please do not hesitate to contact any of the club officers. If your child is unhappy with any aspect of the club or has a problem with another member, please let one of the club officers know.

We appreciate your support, time and help encouraging your child to take up the opportunities YFC has to offer.