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# A Guideline for Participation for the 5<sup>th</sup> Eri-Youth Festival

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## **Introduction**

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) will be hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Eri-Youth Festival this summer, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2012, in Sawa.

NUEYS is expecting a record number of participants from the Diaspora, so accordingly, expect even more active participation from the youth from the Diaspora in this year's festival. In this context, participation does not mean to just attend the festival but also to contribute to the various activities of the festival, ensuring its full success. Your active participation will show and enhance the solidarity between Eritrean youth living inside and outside of Eritrea especially in these times where external threats are trying to undermine Eritrea's sovereignty.

This guideline is a tool for you to make sure that you and your branch/association participates actively and contributes to the success of the 5<sup>th</sup> Eri-Youth Festival. Please read this carefully! If you have any questions or comments on this document or how you can participate in the festival, please contact your local branch or forward them to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Looking forward to seeing you this summer!

Foreign Affairs Committee  
Organizing Committee for the 5<sup>th</sup> Eri-Youth Festival

# Overview of the Eri-Youth Festival

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## **What is the Eri-Youth Festival?**

The Eri-Youth Festival, which is held in Sawa every two years, is a celebration of Eritrean youth! It celebrates their many achievements and the valuable role Eritrean youth play in nation building, development, and in preserving national unity and sovereignty.

## **The Vision of the Eri-Youth Festival**

Our national unity had been strengthened in the revolutionary struggle for independence and, in the process, has become the backbone of our national values. All of us have the duty to preserve such values, especially in challenging times. Therefore, the vision of the EYF is to have the youth embrace their responsibility to strengthen these values and principles within the promise of ensuring national unity and preserving the glory of our martyrs.

## **Why an Eri-Youth Festival?**

The EYF is intended to boost the nationalistic and patriotic feelings and commitments of Eritrean youth so as to put their energy into constructive endeavors. The EYF also aims at enabling the youth to sideline themselves from sub-national feelings and, through their solidarity, actively participate in national development efforts. To bring Eritrean youth from all over the world to one place to celebrate their achievements, as well as to remind them of the ways they can enhance their role in their society, a festival is most convenient. Sawa was chosen for the location of the festival not only because it is a place of national pride, but also because it is the only place that can accommodate the youth expected to participate.

## **How is the Eri-Youth Festival Organized?**

In order for the festival to be youth centered, all activities are arranged for and by young people. NUEYS, in close cooperation with the Sawa Training Center, organizes this spectacular event. NUEYS' offices all over the country actively participate in the planning, organizing and implementation of the festival, ensuring the equal representation of all administrative zones and sub-zones. NUEYS' branches and other Eritrean youth associations abroad, as well as NUEYS' bilateral partners and the international unions/networks that NUEYS affiliates with, also contribute to the success of the festival in order to make it a huge celebration of Eritrean solidarity all over the world!

# Mobilizing Youth to Participate in the Eri-Youth Festival

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*This section provides ideas to help you mobilize youth in your area.*

## **How to Register**

Those who wish to participate in the EYF can register through three channels: their branch/association, the nearest Eritrean Embassy and the NUEYS Central Office in Asmara. All participants have to register through their NUEYS branch or Eritrean youth association nearest to them (visit our website to find the contact nearest you). If you do not have a branch/association in your area, you should register through the NUEYS branch nearest to you or through the Eritrean Embassy nearest to you. Upon your arrival in Eritrea, you will have to stop by the NUEYS Central Office to pay the participation fee and to receive the latest updates regarding the festival. It is important that you register as soon as possible! It is very important that NUEYS knows how many youth intend to participate beforehand so that we can efficiently and effectively accommodate for all participants.

When registering and/or paying the participation fee at the NUEYS Central Office, make sure to bring your passport. A sample of the participation form, which should be submitted to a contact nearest you, can be found on our website.

The minimal participation fee for the festival is 700.00 Nakfa. This money will help to cover transportation costs to and from Sawa and accommodation in Sawa.

Participants will be able to purchase their meals at the various food canteens throughout the festival grounds.

## **Imagine if Everyone in Your Community Knew About the Eri-Youth Festival!**

This goal requires a good plan. Start by prioritizing groups of people you want to reach. What meetings do you want to organize? Here are some of the ways you can catch the attention of everyone in your community.

- 1. Eri-Youth Festival Posters and Brochures:** Posters and brochures regarding the festival are available at the festival website. If you feel that you should make posters, brochures, flyers, etc. that specifically target the youth in your area, please do so! The sooner you get them out, the better. Attach tear off response

## A Guideline for Participation

cards with the contact information of a main contact person so that people know who and how to contact someone for more information.

2. **Post your branches involvement on various websites:** You can post such information on the NUEYS official website (<http://www.nueys.org>) and other Eritrean websites as well. If your branch/association has a website, use it to your advantage. The more information you have and the more attractive you present it can increase the number of hits you get on your website!
3. **Arrange an orientation/brainstorming meeting:** Bring the youth together to enlighten them on what the EYF is all about and how your branch/association plans to contribute to its success. Let the youth discuss and brainstorm on how best they can participate. And remember to forward this information to NUEYS Eritrea so that we can use them to enhance the outcomes of the festival.
4. **Send out emails:** Invite every Eritrean youth you know to participate in the festival and then get those youth to send an email to all of the Eritrean youth they know.
5. **Include everybody:** To promote the EYF, inform all members of the community (families, business people, community officials, etc.) about it. Make sure to involve as many youth as you can. You can also contact your respective Eritrean Embassy for more information.
6. **Join our facebook group:** We're on facebook! Join this group for frequent updates!!  
*We will update and send you the address*

Your feedback is really important to us as it will really help us in the organizing of the festival. Please tell all of your friends to these groups.

## Areas Where You Can Participate

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This section describes the framework of the festival and where your branch/association can participate. To ensure your branch's participation, you should send a brief proposal to the Foreign Affairs Committee that states the areas in which your branch/association plans to participate and the resources/equipment your branch will require at the festival. The following description of areas of participation not only describes the activity but also how your branch/association can contribute and any requirements that might be asked of you. So please read the information carefully! NUEYS, on its part, will work hard to make sure that everything works out smoothly so that you can contribute positively to the festival.

### Activities Included within the Basic Framework of the Festival

- |                                                        |                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Exhibitions                                         | 3. Sawa Award                        |
| a. Youth village                                       | 4. Sports                            |
| b. Warsai-Yekealo Pavilion                             | 5. Cultural shows                    |
| c. Youth innovation and IT Exhibition                  | a. Traditional cultural performances |
| 2. Seminars, panel discussions and paper presentations | b. Modern cultural performances      |
|                                                        | c. A traditional fashion show        |

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- d. Carnival
- 6. Competitions
- 7. Other activities

**1. Exhibitions:** Exhibitions that will be organized for the festival include:

- The Youth Village
- The Warsai-Yekealo Pavilion
- The Innovation and IT Exhibition

NUEYS' Zonal Offices will be organizing various exhibitions that display the different aspects of their respective zones. Eritrean youth from the Diaspora can also organize such exhibitions that display the activities they conduct[ed] and the culture of the place in which they reside through organizing a booth at the *Youth Village*. For example, if your branch has displayed or performed Eritrea's many cultures in the past, you can perform or exhibit pictures from that event.

For the *Youth Village*, a large portion of the festival grounds will be prearranged. Each country should be able to contribute to the youth corner as it is an experience sharing activity. Share with your brothers and sisters in Eritrea what type of activities your branch has conducted. You can also display the life-style of Eritrean youth in the Diaspora and how life is like living outside of Eritrea. This is also a good opportunity to exhibit art work and photographs.

An exhibition that exhibits the great work and achievements of the Warsai-Yekealo Development Campaign will be organized. This exhibition will be organized by Eritrean youth who live and work in Eritrea.

One of NUEYS' biggest programs includes youth innovation. The EYF hosts an exhibition of youth innovation and information technology exhibition that displays samples of various inventions and information communication technology (ICTs). As Eritrean youth from all over Eritrea will be participating in this exhibition, members of your branch/association can also participate by bringing innovation and IT tools to demonstrate their use. Your contribution to this activity would be very much appreciated as Eritrean youth are very interested in these topics but might not have much access to them. To our capacity, NUEYS will try to provide you with the equipment you need (i.e. computers, projectors, etc.). For example, if you would like to exhibit some software or the like, we will provide you with the computer; you will not have to bring one with you. If there is some other type of IT that you would like to include in the exhibition but you have to bring some equipment with you, tell us before hand and we will try to make sure that you have no problem getting through the airport. You would have to tell us well before hand and you would be expected to take the equipment back home with you.

To be part in the Innovation and IT Exhibition, you have to fill out a form, which is available on the NUEYS Official website. We can also send it to you upon request.

**2. Seminars, Panel Discussions and Paper Presentations:** These sessions will address youth issues in an effort to increase the youths' consciousness on national, regional and global

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issues. These activities will also reflect the theme of the festival (*Not finalized yet*) and the role of the youth in shaping their own future and the future of their country. Youth from the Diaspora will, of course, be expected to participate in these activities as audience. If you feel that there is a specific issue that you would like to see addressed in a seminar or panel discussion, please forward it to NUEYS. If you would like to present a paper, you can also do so by following the guidelines outlined in the *Call for Paper Proposals* (will be available on the NUEYS website soon).

**3. Sawa Award:** Students in Eritrea of outstanding academic achievement are encouraged with the 'Zagre Award for Academic Achievement.' The Zagre Award is given to students who score above the GPA of 3.0 in the matriculation exam. Every summer, NUEYS awards Eritrean youth coming from the Diaspora who have graduated from high school with the Sawa Award. This award aims at encouraging high school students to continue their studies and strengthen their commitment to use their knowledge for Eritrea's development. If there are members of your branch/association that will be graduating from high school, college, or university last year and this year (2011-2012), they are eligible to receive the Sawa Award. This is also true for students who have received any academic awards of distinction or if they have done something extraordinary in their community. Those who are eligible have to fill out a registration form; this form can be found on the NUEYS website or it can be sent to you by email upon request. Youth eligible for the award should send their filled out registration form directly or they can be nominated by the leadership of your branch/association, embassies, and the PFDJ office in their respective area. There will be a deadline for registration as medals will have to be prepared well before the festival.

**4. Sports:** There will be many sports events at the EYF but most of the tournaments start before the festival, making it a little difficult for Eritrean youth coming from the Diaspora to participate. However, there will be mass sports activities, such as some athletics activities, in which youth from the Diaspora can easily participate. Also, if your branch/association is interested in organizing sports activities, please send us specifics like which sport you would like to play and the number of team players. Also, please send us a list of their names, their age, and their gender. If you are interested in having friendly games with other youth from within Eritrea and/or coming from the Diaspora, then please inform us.

Sports that will be included in the festival include football, volleyball, basketball, athletics and traditional sports (beep, fitiley, aseti, teweset, hinqo, qlis, redayta). Organized teams who participate in the festival will have the opportunity to participate in all of the games but note that sport activities will take place in the Zobas prior to the start of the festival. Accordingly, only final matches will take place during the festival.

**5. Cultural Shows:** This part of the festival program will reflect youth culture and identity and promote the appreciation of the cultural diversity of our nation. It will also encourage youth to uphold the responsibility of retaining their culture and it will allow youth to identify opportunities where they can explore their artistic potentials. Cultural shows include:

- Traditional cultural performances
- Modern cultural performances

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- A traditional fashion show

**Traditional Fashion Show** The EYF will be hosting a fashion show—but keep in mind; the fashion show isn't a beauty pageant. All shows have to reflect the traditional, cultural, and creative aspects of Eritrean culture. If there are members of your branch who have designed traditional Eritrean clothes, they can show off their work at the EYF. They should either share samples of their clothes or a portfolio prior to the festival for approval.

**Modern Cultural Performances** Modern cultural performance can include music performances, dance, drama shows and poetry/spoken word. If you have members that are talented in writing skits and/or acting, they can perform at the EYF. Just send a proposal of participation and the script to the Foreign Affairs committee for approval via email. If you require any equipment or materials, please tell us so in your proposal. There will be various stages all around the festival grounds.

**6. Competitions:** There will be various competitions like that of the general knowledge competition, debating, oratory competitions and art competitions. Members of your branch/association can compete in such competitions. If you have members who are interested, please forward their names and in which area they would like to participate. Soon after, we will send them instructions to guide them in their participation.

### 7. Other Activities Included in the 5<sup>th</sup> Eri-Youth Festival

There are other activities within the framework of the EYF that doesn't require your direct input but does require your participation. For your information, descriptions of these activities are below:

**Tree Planting** Deforestation is a major challenge in Eritrea and the youth have played an important role in combating it through the *maatot* summer campaigns. To encourage the feeling of 'ownership' in environmental conservation campaigns and to also give back something to the Sawa Training Camp, we will conduct a tree planting activity at the festival. This activity will also reflect the important participation and responsibility of youth in the national development drive.

**Candle Light Vigil Parade** The Eritrean youth of today have a promise to keep when it comes to their country. This promise is not to anybody but the many heroes who died to bring independence and to ensure Eritrea's sovereignty. In memory of those heroes and heroines, a candle light vigil will be conducted on one of the evenings of the festivals.

**Heroes Epic Narrations** As the saying goes, "You don't know where you are going until you know where you have been." It is important for youth to learn and understand their history so that they can make the right choices and take the right actions in the future. And what better way to learn about your history than from the heroes who were there? Such heroes will come to the festival to share their experiences with youth.

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If you have any activity you want to add, questions or comment, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact information is:

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Please also visit our website for frequent updates at:

<http://www.nueys.org>