

Young Reporters for the Environment 30th Birthday Challenge

Challenge: Help celebrate 30 years of Young Reporters for the Environment by sharing a local place you think is beautiful and why we should work together to keep it that way.

Celebrate with us!

Did you know that Eco-Schools and Young Reporters for the Environment are 30 years old this year? Started in Scotland in 2013, YRE now reaches over 500,000 young people in 44 countries worldwide.

Celebrate with us with our YRE Challenge. Share a local place you think is beautiful and explain why you think we should work hard to keep it that way. You can complete this challenge as a class, year group or whole school / nursery!



Taking part and entering the competition

Visit a place that you think is beautiful. This could be a local park, a beach, a place in your town, a corner of your school grounds, or your own garden. Whatever is beautiful to you!

Take a photograph that shows that beauty. No special equipment needed – a smartphone or tablet is fine. No editing apart from cropping (i.e. no AI, Photoshop or filters please!)

Tell us a little bit about the place in your photograph, and why you think it's important to keep Scotland beautiful.

Send in your entry: <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/yre/>

The deadline for entries is **22 April 2025**.

Twelve winning entries will be chosen by a panel of judges, with four winners from each of the following age categories: Up to 10 years, 11-14 years, 15-18 years.

Sponsored by [HP](#), the winning photographs will be published in our 30th Anniversary calendar which will celebrate all the diverse beauty of Scotland, from towns and villages to hills and fields, school gardens, allotments and parks. Each winning photographer will also receive a cash prize of £25 along with a copy of the calendar.



How to take a photograph that tells a story

Pick an unusual angle

One of the most important features of a photograph is the angle it is taken at. The angle can tell you a lot about the person telling the story and how they see the world because it focuses on what is important to them. The main feature in your photograph is called the subject. To focus on tiny detail that might be missed you might choose a **close up**, while a **long shot** taken a longer distance from your subject can give an impression of space, perhaps in an open field or at the beach.

Angles can exaggerate features we'd like to focus on. Photographing something from a **low angle**, like sitting at the base of a tree for example, can exaggerate height, while photographing something from above like in the example to the right (called a **high angle**) can make it seem smaller than it actually is. You can also tilt your camera, so the horizon is not level, to create a feeling of tension. Try photographing your subject from a variety of angles to see what works best.



Frame your photograph

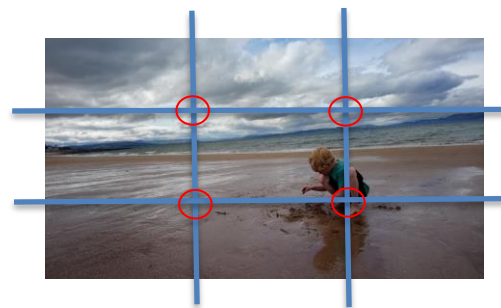
Consider whether portrait or landscape orientation works best for your story. **Landscape** is horizontal where the photograph is wider than it is tall. **Portrait** is the opposite: a vertical photograph that is taller than it is wide. In general, tall things like buildings are usually best photographed in portrait, and open scenery is usually best photographed in landscape.

Use the rule of thirds

The rule of thirds is a technique that places your subject in the left or right third of an image, leaving the other two thirds more open. Picture a grid on the top of your photograph.

It can be tempting to put the subject of your photo right in the middle but having them off to the side can create a sense of movement because the viewer's eye will start on your subject and then move around to take in the background.

The corners of the square in the middle where the grid lines intersect are the best places for your subject. In the example on the right, the focal point is on the boy's feet. Have a look at this video for some more examples of photo composition [Perry's Picture Pointers](#)



Once you have taken your photograph, you can crop it to make sure it has the composition you prefer.