## **STAR ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP - YEAR 8 AND 9PROGRAM DETAILS FOR PARENTS**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Star Achievers scholarship program identifies secondary students who have already shown an outstanding level of ability and potential (specifically in the areas of science and mathematics) and recognises and encourages them through the award of science-related scholarships.

The Year 8 - 9 scholarships develop the students’ interest in science and maths by immersing them in a wide range of programs. This includes a mix of core & optional activities such as vacation programs, individual projects, participation in events and exhibitions, and local group activities with other scholarship students from local schools.

The exact program is individually tailored with the student at the start of the scholarship.

The value of each scholarship is $4,000 over two years. This amount is used to cover the cost of planned activities including excursion and program fees, project materials, travel and accommodation (the student and up to one parent/carer).

### **ACTIVITIES**

YEAR 8 Core Activities

* Enrolment in the UNSW Scientia Challenge (GERRIC) 3-day vacation program (Sydney) in either January or July.

This selective program features a range of workshops run over three days. The courses are developed and presented by staff at the University of New South Wales and provide a fun but challenging program. It also provides the opportunity for gifted students to meet like-minded peers of similar interests.

* An individual project on a topic nominated by the student, typically involving around 30 hours from design to completion. This project (investigation) is undertaken under the STANSW ‘Young Scientist’ structure.

 Optional Activities

* Go on excursions to Canberra or Sydney and visit places like the Aquarium, Powerhouse Museum, the Observatory, Taronga Zoo, Questacon and many others.
* Get involved with local activities with scholarship students from other schools – such as snorkelling safaris, cheese production, astronomy evenings, learn about computer programs, see how a zoo works.

YEAR 9 Core Activities

* Enrolment in a ‘Science Experience’ 3 or 4-day vacation program in Sydney (January, July or October). Each program is designed to provide students who have an interest in science with an opportunity to engage in a wide range of hands-on science activities under the guidance of scientists who love their work. Various universities run these with different ranges of topics each year.
* A more extensive individual ‘Young Scientist’ project (which can be an investigation, a model or an invention), undertaken over several terms.

 Optional Activities

* Similar to Year 8, but also can include vacation ‘Learning Labs’ at UOW or other Uni’s in particular areas of interest.

*You can find more details on our web site ‘Resources’ page* [*http://sapphire-foundation.org/resources*](http://sapphire-foundation.org/resources)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | The Sapphire FoundationP.O. Box 5248, Cobargo NSW 2550[www.sapphire-foundation.org](http://www.sapphire-foundation.org) [www.facebook.com/thesapphirefoundation](http://www.facebook.com/thesapphirefoundation) |