

## Science Centre Singapore Celebrates 40th Anniversary of its Iconic Young Scientist Badge Programme with the Launch of Three New Badges

*Limited-edition physical badges, inspired by famous figures in STEM, can be earned exclusively on-site from 18 - 20 October*



**Singapore, 21 September 2022** - Science Centre Singapore's longest-running initiative, the Young Scientist Badge (YSB) Programme, commemorates 40 years of igniting interest and passion in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Inaugurated in 1982 with just four badges, the programme has grown by leaps and bounds with over one million badges awarded island-wide to date.

The Centre celebrated this milestone with a special YSB 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event where Guest of Honour, Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education announced the launch of three new badges, the multidisciplinary, "*I am a young Marie Curie*" and "*I am a young Margaret Fountaine*" badges, as well as the *Young Fabricator Badge*, in partnership with Temasek Foundation, with the latter slated to roll out in 2023. The addition of the three new badges brings the YSB collection to 25 this year.



## Celebrating YSB40 with two new multidisciplinary badges in 2022



Inspired by pioneers of science - *Marie Curie* and *Margaret Fountaine*, the young *Marie Curie* and *Margaret Fountaine* badges are curated to encourage a spirit of innovation and societal norms-defying resilience, as exhibited by the Nobel winning physicist and the prolific lepidopterist during their time.

Exclusively from 18 – 20 October, guests can embark on a one-of-a-kind *Marie Curie* and *Margaret Fountaine* Trail at Science Centre Singapore priced at \$5 each, and complete missions guided by a physical trail booklet<sup>1</sup>. Examples of these activities include:

- **Marie Curie Trail** - Learning about radioactive compounds and their uses in today's world, performing a repulsion test to investigate magnetic properties, and making a solar lamp to demonstrate the use of environmentally friendly energy sources.
- **Margaret Fountaine Trail** - Identifying flowering and non-flowering plants that can be found in Singapore, testing high sugar and liquid foods that butterflies enjoy feeding on, and learning how climate change affects the population of monarch butterflies.

Guests who complete the trail will be entitled to a physical “*I am a young Marie Curie*” and/or “*I am a young Margaret Fountaine*” badge and trail booklet, which are part of a limited-edition collection and only available on the three days. After this, the two new badges can be earned online at <https://www.science.edu.sg/for-schools/resources/young-scientist-badge-scheme>.

As part of the three-day experience, guests can also purchase tickets at <https://www.gevme.com/scsonlinetickets> to participate in activities inspired by the two famous personalities. These include using a hardness test kit and magnets to observe the physical properties of materials, and using a stereo zoom microscope to observe body parts of a butterfly.

The line-up of YSB activities is part of the year-long celebration that marks the Centre's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of igniting curiosity and interest in STEM across Singapore.

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<sup>1</sup> The physical trail booklets are only available exclusively on 18-20 October 2022 and will not be applicable to the subsequent digital trails.



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## **A look at YSB history**

The YSB programme was introduced four decades ago in support of the national push to develop talent and capabilities in STEM. Its objective was simple - stimulate interest in scientific disciplines amongst young learners through a series of self-directed activities to support the joy of learning and self-discovery.

- **Format & Evolution**

Open exclusively to primary school students, participants were awarded between one to three “stars” for completing a task and could earn themselves a badge upon collecting 15 to 20 “stars”.

From only four badges 40 years ago with tasks largely confined to classrooms and within Science Centre Singapore, interest in the programme grew over the years along with the number of badges. The curation of activities and badges continued to keep in line with the national science syllabus and desired learning outcomes, and more importantly, were enhanced to enable learners to encounter science beyond the classroom, especially in unexpected places. An example is the *Young Food Scientist* programme, where participants are tasked to bake a cake with parents to learn about the process of fermentation, or the *Young Geneticist* programme where learners are to watch a movie on cloning and discuss ethical concerns.

- **Facts & Figures**

Until now, the programme boasts of 22 badges, including signature fan-favourites like the *Young Entomologist*, *Young Botanist* and *Young Zoologist*, and newer, trend-mirroring ones like the *Young Sustainability Champion* badge.

The programme continues to evolve in response to developments in society and the scientific field. Significantly, the initiative was officially digitised in 2020 to enable greater access to the programme beyond Singapore, sparking renewed uptake in a season of pandemic-induced lockdowns.

More recently, YSB has also been used as a learning tool for students with special needs from Grace Orchard School and the Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN). Additional efforts were made to ensure that the badge activities are inclusive and accessible by students of varying abilities.

- **Partners & Sponsors**

The sustainability and popularity of the programme has been fueled by public and private partners including the Institution of Engineers, Infocomm Media Development Authority, Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science, Singapore Institute of Biology, Singapore Land Authority, Singapore National Academy of Science, Singtel, Science Teachers Association of



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Singapore, and Temasek Foundation who have collaborated with the Centre to co-create specific YSB activities.

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**About Science Centre Singapore**

Science Centre Singapore, a non-formal educational institution and leading regional Science Centre, along with its group of attractions, brings out the wonders of science, technology, engineering and mathematics through its unique blend of exhibitions, educational programmes and events. A custodian of creativity and innovation, Science Centre Singapore has captured the evolution of scientific developments for more than four decades.

The Centre and its partners have played a pivotal role in transforming the way students and the public interact with and learn about science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Since 1977, the Centre has welcomed over 30 million visitors and inspired them with more than 1,000 exhibits spread across 14 exhibition galleries and outdoor exhibition spaces.

The Centre's group of attractions include Omni-Theatre, Snow City and KidsSTOP™. The Omni-Theatre, Southeast Asia's first 8K 3D digital theatre with a 23m wide seamless dome screen, is an immersive destination like no other. Snow City is Singapore's only permanent indoor snow centre offering an Arctic inspired experience at Singapore's first ice gallery and snow chamber. KidsSTOP™ - Where every child gets to Imagine, Experience, Discover and Dream - is Singapore's first children's science centre offering an enriching experience through purposeful play for children aged 18 months to 8 years old. For more information, please visit [www.science.edu.sg](http://www.science.edu.sg).

