

The Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation (DCSR) in partnership with Love Life, National Youth Development Agency and local municipalities within the province hosted the afore-mentioned youth camp on the 22nd – 28th September 2013 at Pine lake Inn, Nelspruit.

The primary objective of these camps were to develop young people and empower them with the requisite values, soft-skills and knowledge that can assist them to become responsible, conscious citizens and to strengthen their sense of patriotism and national identity.

The municipalities were therefore requested to recruit and submit fifteen (15) young people between the ages of 14 – 25 in line with the DCSR stratification. The participants went through a lengthy and intense process which involved the classroom and outdoor activities. **The camp focused on the following themes:**

1. **Leadership:** Develop leadership skills through various life skills activities which will enable to inspire and direct fellow young people towards their development.
2. **Social Cohesion:** It provides coherence, unity and develops positive bonds amongst young people, promote tolerate and respect for diversity.
3. **National and Character Building:** Promotes active participation through national services, taking pride in symbols, culture heritage and historical knowledge of the country should be promoted.
4. **Youth Service Outreach:** Promotes volunteerism, community participation and develops an interactive society for tomorrow's leaders.

It should also be noted that all participants received certificates of attendance as trailblazers (pioneers) for youth development matters. They were then given a mandate to lobby and advocate for programmes aimed to develop young people.