

5th Annual Eritrean Youth Festival in SAWA



Eritrea Youth Festival in Sawa: 13th – 15th July 2012

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) will be hosting the 5th Eritrean-Youth Festival this summer, from the 13-15 July 2012, in Sawa, Eritrea. NUEYS is expecting a record number of participants from the Diaspora, in this year's Festival. This will consist 50,000 plus youth from inside the country and outside from Europe, America, Australia, Africa and Middle-East.

One of the programs is the "Universal and Eri-Artista Sounds" which will feature world artists and Eritrean talents with diverse and unique line up from Europe and America.

NUEYS would therefore like you to adorn this historical event with your participation.

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

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.

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 50,000 youth expected to participate.

Basic Framework of the Festival

- Exhibitions
- Youth village
- Warsai-Yekealo Pavilion
- Youth innovation and IT Exhibition
- Seminars, Panel discussions and paper presentations
- Sawa Award
- Sports
- Concerts / Cultural shows
- Traditional/Modern cultural performances
- A traditional fashion show

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).

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 issues. These activities will also reflect the theme of the festival (Youth: Directors of the Future) 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 (available on the NUEYS website).

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 the highest mark (GPA of 4.0) in the matriculation exam. Every summer, NUEYS awards Eritrean youth coming 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 this year (2010), they are eligible to receive the Sawa Award.

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:

- Open Air Concerts
- Traditional cultural performances
- Modern cultural performances
- A traditional fashion show
- Carnival

All the helpful information above was provided by (*EritreaCompass.com*)

REGISTRATION

SAWA Registration Process:

Sawa registration has two portions. The first portion is done electronically and the second portion is done in Asmara, Eritrea.

First portion (Online Registration):

- 1) Go to www.hadelbi.com
- 2) Go to the tab that reads "Conferences"
- 3) Then click the tab that says "5th Eri-Youth Festival Registration Form"
- 4) Fill out the registration form
- 5) Submit your registration

Second portion (NUEYS office in Asmara, Eritrea):

- 1) Go to the NUEYS office in Asmara which is located behind the Ministry of Education (P.O. Box 1042 Asmara, Eritrea).
- 2) Have your PASSPORT and Eritrean ID (if you have one), with you. This is necessary for the registration process.
- 3) SAWA registration fee:
 - \$700 Nakfa
- 4) NUEYS office Contacts:
 - Tel: (291-1-122118), Mobile: (291-7-138637)
 - Email: nueyspub2001@yahoo.com
- 5) After you register, be sure to get information on Orientation time and date. At this orientation day, organizers will give all tourist important information (ex: bus info, what to bring to SAWA, how much pocket money to bring, etc...)

ZURA N' HAGERKA:

The tour covers the following locations:

- Sawa, Tesseney, Keren, Fillfil, Green Island, Massawa, Adi Keih, Quhaito, Asmara and more.
- Register for Zura when you register for Sawa at the Nueys Office
- It will start on July 16, 2012 and ends on July 21, 2012 for a total of six days.
- There will be a fee of \$6,500 Nakfa that covers all the necessary accommodation during the tour. You must be between the ages of 16 and 30 years old to participate.

BE SURE TO GO EARLIER IN THE DAY FOR REGISTRATION (8AM OR 9AM)

What you need to bring to SAWA:

- Easy summer clothes
- Simple shoes (Sandals/Shida)
- Light jacket/sweater
- Mosquito/bug spray, important medication
- Your OWN pillow, sleeping bag, and sheets (SAWA only provides the beds NOT sheets and pillows)
- Towel and other toiletry. Bring your own toilet paper/wipes
- Camera (outlets are available, but there are very few of them)
- Dry snacks (Don't bring food that will spoil fast; SAWA is really hot so bring dry snacks like crackers). Water for travels is necessary. Food and drinks are available for purchase at the Festival
- Good amount of pocket money
- ALWAYS keep important things with you at all times (ex: money, passport, ID, electronics, etc...). Although Eritrea is a safe place, there are always people who cause trouble. Therefore be careful with your belongings. Use a lock for your bags if necessary, and you should be good☺
- If you plan on going to Zura N' Hagerka then we suggest you take a few warm clothes and beach wear for when you go to Massawa

Overall this festival is something you are lucky to experience. Try and participate in all the activities provided and take advantage of all opportunities. Take plenty of pictures, record and enjoy your journey. Eritrea is a beautiful place which holds so much history and value. At this festival we encourage all attendees to be social, meet people, but most importantly learn something. When returning from your trip, come back with knowledge and great stories that you can share with your fellow young Eritreans. YPFDJ OC/LA would like to wish you all safe travels, and hope you have a wonderful stay.

**Thank you
Awet N' Hafash!**

- YPFDJ OC/LA

