



## ST PHILIP'S COLLEGE

### YEAR 9 ENDEAVOUR PROGRAMS 2026 Expression of Interest and Preferences for Endeavour

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#### ACTION REQUIRED:

Responses due – Friday, 5 December 2026



Medical and Consent Forms due – Tuesday, 5 May 2026



Information Night – 5:30pm Monday, 23 February 2026



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Dear Year 8 Parents/Guardians and current Year 8 students,

Preparation is well underway for the Year 9 *Endeavour* Course, 2026. The 9-day Endeavour has been offered for more than 25 years and is designed specifically for students in Year 9. Endeavour is a key part of the College's philosophy and curriculum and has a proud and successful history. Many students count the journey-based program as one of the most significant experiences of their secondary schooling and it can be used towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The program is very well regarded throughout Australia and is unique in the Northern Territory.

Please read the following information below carefully. Please register an Expression of Interest immediately stating your preference, attend the Information Night in February 2026 and submit forms by the due dates.

#### LODGE YOUR PREFERENCE

Lodge your preference to indicate how your son/daughter would like to be involved in 2026. These will then be taken into consideration to assist with organising groups. **The College expects that all students attend one of the two options** and that they participate to the best of their ability in all activities while on the program. Normal classes will **not** be provided by the College during the weeks of the Endeavour Course. If your child will not participate in this important part of the College curriculum, a written explanation is required and please email this to: [outdoor.education@stphilips.nt.edu.au](mailto:outdoor.education@stphilips.nt.edu.au) by **Friday 5 December 2026**.

#### PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION EVENING – all students should attend.

An Information Night will be held on Monday, 23 February 2026 in The Minnamurra Hall at 5:30pm. It is compulsory that students attend this meeting with parents/guardians to make themselves aware of all the requirements of the trip they will attend.

#### YEAR 9 ENDEAVOUR PROGRAM DATES

The exact dates will be confirmed when we have accurate numbers for each offering, and will be contained between Monday, 20 July 2026 to Friday, 31 July 2026 (Week 1 and 2 of Term 3). No classes during these weeks are provided.

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### YEAR 9 ENDEAVOUR

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The traditional expedition will be held in the Chewings Ranges, an adjunct of the West MacDonnell National Park and the surrounding area to the west of Standley Chasm. This unique 'vertebrae' of mountains and gorges lends itself well to the various challenging activities the students undertake. These activities include bushwalking, abseiling, rock climbing, a low-ropes course, navigation, swimming and cooking. Year 9 *Endeavour* is a journey-based expedition; all groups move campsites each day and travel with all food, clothing and equipment in their packs.

Although the students learn a number of outdoor skills, the focus of the program is personal development through interaction with others. *Endeavour* aims to build confidence and resilience, raise self-esteem, increase initiative, encourage leadership and develop strategies that can be used successfully, individually or in a group. Through working in small, independent and self-sufficient groups, students connect through communal living, encouraging them to cooperate with the environment and their peers. They are faced with challenges that provide them with opportunities for personal growth and the extension of their horizons.

**OPTION 1: 9-day Endeavour Activities include:**

- Camp craft/ shelter building with bivvies
- Cooking communally on the open fire each night (pizza, Roo's tail, roast chicken, pasta, noodles etc.)
- Walking between 2 – 12kms daily (average 5km per day)
- Low Ropes Course
- 25m abseil
- Walking one of the most spectacular sections of the Larapinta Trail (Razorback Ridge)
- Group initiative activities
- Orienteering with maps and compass
- Raft building and swimming across a gorge with all their equipment.

The 9-day adventure prepares your son/daughter well for Mittagundi (Year 10) and Aspire (Year 11) which are of a similar length and challenge. Students who complete the full Year 9 Endeavour Program will be given preference for a spot on the Year 10 Mittagundi Program.

**OPTION 2: 5-day Endeavour Activities include:**

- Camp craft/ shelter building with bivvies
- Cooking communally on the open fire each night (pizza, Roo's tail, pasta, noodles etc.)
- Walking between 2 – 8kms daily (average 4km per day)
- Low Ropes Course
- Group initiative activities
- Orienteering with maps and compass

Those commencing Endeavour on the 5-day course will be given the option while out there to stay on and complete the full course.

I look forward to hearing the discussions about your options and seeing you at the Parent/Student Information Evening. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at the College by phone or email if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



**Emma Shearer**  
**Head of Outdoor Education**

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