



Australian Coding Competition 2027

Scratch Jr Animation

PROJECT & SUBMISSION GUIDE

Code, Create & Protect - Australian Endangered Species

CREATE WITH Scratch Jr graphical coding blocks to create an animation or interactive story.

Age group: 5-6 years

PROJECT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

15 JANUARY 2027

Winners & runners-up announced via STEM Birds social media: 15 February 2027

IMPORTANT ENTRY RULE Read the Terms & Conditions. Multiple platforms may be entered, but only one project per platform. Submit a separate form for each programming language/category.

1. Competition Overview

This guide is for registered participants entering the Scratch Jr Animation stream. The participant creates a short Scratch Jr project and submits a video of the project through the STEM Birds submission form.

Competition theme: 'Code, Create & Protect - Australian Endangered Species'. Every entry must connect to Australian wildlife, habitats, conservation challenges or positive actions that can protect the environment.

Important dates

Milestone	Date / Information
Project submission deadline	15 January 2027
Winners & runners-up announcement	15 February 2027 - announced via STEM Birds social media

Research before you create

Students should check reliable sources before making claims about an animal, habitat or conservation status. Useful starting points:

[Australian Government threatened species](#) - Current national information about threatened species under the EPBC Act.

[Australian Government threatened species hub](#) - Background on Australian threatened species and conservation.

[Australian Museum - Koala](#) - Student-friendly species facts, habitat and conservation information.

[Australian Museum - Greater Bilby](#) - Information about bilbies, habitat changes and threats.

[National Geographic Kids - Australia](#) - Accessible background on Australian geography and wildlife.

2. Scratch Jr Platform Setup

1. Download or open Scratch Jr on a supported device.
2. A separate Scratch Jr account is not required to create the project. Projects are normally stored locally on the device.
3. Open Scratch Jr, go to My Projects and select the plus sign to create a new project.
4. Keep the project saved on the same device until the entry has been submitted and judging is complete.

What can you create?

- Meet My Australian Animal
- Saving the Koala
- Wildlife Rescue Story
- Protecting Our Environment
- Animal Habitat Adventure
- Another original Scratch Jr story connected to the competition theme

What should the child demonstrate?

- A clear beginning, middle and end or a simple interactive sequence.
- Use of coding blocks to control characters, movement, messages, sound or scenes.
- An environmental message connected to Australian wildlife.
- The child should be able to explain what some of the coding blocks do.

3. How to Record, Upload & Submit

5. Complete the project and test it from beginning to end.
6. Record a video of no more than 3 minutes showing the project in action.
7. The participant should explain their project and the coding blocks they used.
8. A parent/guardian should manage the YouTube upload. Sign in to YouTube or YouTube Studio, choose Create/Upload video, select the recorded Scratch Jr video, add a simple title, and choose a visibility setting that allows the judging team to open the link. Unlisted is suitable; do not use Private.
9. After the upload finishes, copy the YouTube video URL.
10. Open the link in a private/incognito browser window to confirm that it plays without requiring access to the uploader's account.
11. Paste the working YouTube link into the official STEM Birds submission form.

Useful resources

[Scratch Jr official website](#) - Platform information, resources and activities.

[YouTube official upload instructions](#) - Official help for uploading a video.

4. Judging Criteria

- Creativity - Is the animation original and engaging?
- Understanding of coding blocks - Can the student explain what the blocks do?
- Sequencing - Do actions happen in a logical order?
- Project explanation - Can the child clearly describe the environmental message?

Original Work, Support & Integrity

All submissions must represent the participant's own work. The competition is intended to show what the student can create, code, design and explain.

Parents and teachers may:

- Explain the competition rules and platform basics.
- Help the participant research Australian animals, habitats and conservation issues.
- Discuss project ideas and teach new coding or design concepts.
- Help with account setup, privacy settings, video upload and submission logistics where appropriate.

Parents and teachers must not:

- Build the Scratch Jr project for the participant.
- Write or dictate the participant's coding-block logic.
- Submit a pre-made or copied project as the participant's original work.

ORIGINAL WORK PRINCIPLE Adults can support learning, but the participant should make the final coding, design and creative decisions and be able to explain the project.

Certificates, Winners & Recognition

- All eligible participants who successfully submit a competition entry will receive a Certificate of Participation.
- Winners and runners-up will receive exciting prizes.
- Winners and runners-up will be announced through STEM Birds social media on 15 February 2027.
- Judging decisions are final.

Final Submission Checklist

Before submitting, check every item below.

- ☐ The project clearly connects to Australian wildlife, conservation or the environment.

- ☐ The project is the participant's own original work.
- ☐ The project is complete and has been tested.
- ☐ The Scratch Jr video is no longer than 3 minutes and includes the child's project/code explanation.
- ☐ The YouTube link is accessible and has been tested in a private/incognito browser window.
- ☐ The video visibility is not set to Private.
- ☐ A separate submission form is completed for each programming language/category entered.
- ☐ The final submission is completed by 15 January 2027.

Official STEM Birds Submission Form

Use the official submission form below when your project is complete. The same submission link will also be available on the STEM Birds website.

[STEM Birds Australian Coding Competition 2027 - Submit Your Project](#)

Entry limit: Read the Terms & Conditions. Multiple platforms may be entered, but only one project per platform. Submit a separate form for each programming language/category.

Email Communications & Marketing

The email address provided to STEM Birds will be used for competition-related communications, including reminders, important updates, judging information, results and certificate information.

The email address may also be used by STEM Birds to share information about future competitions, coding and robotics programs, workshops, holiday programs, classes, events, promotions and other STEM Birds programs and services, in accordance with the competition terms. Recipients may unsubscribe from marketing communications using the unsubscribe option provided in marketing emails. Essential competition communications may still be sent where required to administer an entry.