



Gloucestershire Volunteer Awards 2026

Nomination Guide



ABOUT THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The Gloucestershire Volunteer Awards celebrate the extraordinary dedication, passion, and impact of volunteers who make a real difference in our communities. From supporting vulnerable individuals to driving environmental initiatives and fostering inclusivity, these selfless contributions leave a lasting legacy. Volunteers are the heartbeat of Gloucestershire, strengthening communities, addressing local challenges, and inspiring others.

The Gloucestershire Volunteer Awards shine a light on incredible individuals and groups whose tireless efforts enhance lives, uplift communities, and create meaningful change. Join us as we celebrate their remarkable contributions and say a heartfelt "thank you" to those who make the world a better place for us all.

The Gloucestershire Volunteer Awards are hosted by [Go Volunteer Glos](#).

About Go Volunteer Glos

Go Volunteer Glos is the digital home of volunteering in Gloucestershire, connecting individuals to meaningful volunteer roles. The platform was created in 2022 and has grown from strength to strength with thousands of volunteers now using the platform.

Go Volunteer Glos plays an integral role in developing the volunteer landscape in Gloucestershire, developing easier pathways into volunteering and providing a range of support to voluntary and community sector organisations. Go Volunteer Glos is part of [Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance](#).

KEY DATES

- Nominations will be open at 9am on January 7th 2026 - and close at 5pm on 27th February 2026.
- Judging will take place 6th March and finalists will be informed during the week of 9th March 2026.
- The awards ceremony will take place on Friday 5th June 2026 at Hatherley Manor Hotel and Spa, Gloucester.

HOW TO NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER

1

2

3

4

Read through the award categories and descriptions carefully and decide which is the best fit.

Review our tips for writing your nomination. Getting all the information in your nomination really helps the judges make their decision.

Fill out the nomination form in as much detail as possible - there is a separate form for each category.

Be ready for a member of the Go Volunteer Glos team to get in touch from the 9th March 2026 if you've been selected as a finalist.

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR NOMINATION

The information you include in the nomination is the only information the judges have about your amazing nominee, so here are some tips to get the most from your nomination:

1. **Tell the full story** - here are some questions to consider:
 - i. Who is your nominee?
 - ii. What have they done?
 - iii. Why are they special?
 - iv. Where do they do their amazing work?
 - v. How do they help others or their community?
2. **Be yourself** - write like you are talking to a friend and tell us why the nominee means so much to you and the community.
3. **Don't worry about your writing being perfect** - the judges care about the story you tell, not about spelling or grammar.
4. **Describe the impact they have had on their community or chosen cause** - no matter what it is that your nominee does, it will certainly be making a difference to the lives of others. For example - have they supported someone to access sports in a unique way? Or perhaps they have made the green spaces in your area cleaner and therefore the community feels a nice space? There are endless ways in which volunteers have an impact and including this adds real clout to the nomination.
5. **Draft your nomination** - it can be helpful to draft your nomination ahead of time, and then input the text into the form.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Community Group Award

The Community Group Award celebrates the groups of volunteers who lead the way in creating change in their communities. Across Gloucestershire, there are hundreds of informal groups that are making a huge difference to the lives of others, from teams of litter pickers through to knit and natter groups – each one of them is run by a team of tirelessly dedicated volunteers for the benefit of others.

This award might be appropriate for:

- Volunteer-led groups (though groups can be facilitated by a larger organisation, for example a litter picking group receiving support from a Local Authority).
- Community groups that tackle community challenges, from food hubs to protecting green spaces.
- Groups that bring people together to connect and support each other.
- Groups that go above and beyond in creating welcoming spaces where everyone can feel like they belong.

[Nomination Form](#)

Rising Star Award

The Rising Star Award celebrates the impact that young volunteers (under 18 years of age) have in their communities. This award shines a light on incredible children and teenagers who are already changing their community and inspiring others around them. Recognising those who look to benefit their communities, whether that is through cadets, scouting, charities or other local groups.

This award might be appropriate for someone who:

- Is aged 18 and under who brings fresh energy and brilliant ideas to their volunteer role.
- Balances education and other commitments with helping others.
- Inspires and acts as a mentor to other young people.
- Has started their own project/initiative to help local causes.

[Nomination Form](#)



Trustee of the Year Award

The Trustee of the Year Award celebrates good governance and the difference trustees can make to their organisations. It seeks to recognise those who often go unnoticed, working tirelessly behind the scenes to support staff and lead with vision, purpose and integrity.

This award might be appropriate for someone who:

- Has been an active board member, chair or trustee leading with unwavering dedication.
- Provides outstanding support, guidance and inspiration to their organisation.
- Always demonstrates good governance and integrity in the running of a not-for-profit organisation.
- Has been a trustee for at least a year.

[Nomination Form](#)



Sports Volunteer Award

The Sports Volunteer Award celebrates the dedication and energy it takes to sustain Gloucestershire's fantastic sports programmes. This award recognises the invaluable and often unseen efforts by volunteers that keep community clubs running and facilitates people of all ages and abilities to take part in sports.

This award might be appropriate for someone who:

- Is making a positive impact by enhancing access to sports within Gloucestershire
- Supports sports groups and organisations in a variety of voluntary roles such as: coaching, organising events, maintaining facilities, fundraising or administrating behind the scenes – every role is important.
- Goes above and beyond in creating a positive and supportive environment for individuals of all ages and abilities to enjoy sports, building participants' confidence, skills and enjoyment of their sport.

[Nomination Form](#)



Best organisation to volunteer with in 2026

This award celebrates the organisations that create the best possible environment for their volunteers. From providing regular training, keeping volunteers up-to-date and expressing gratitude - being a great place to volunteer is something to be celebrated.

Who this award could be for:

- An organisation that goes above and beyond in ensuring all volunteers feel included.
- An organisation whose volunteers are continually supported and encouraged, feel empowered in their roles, and know that they're making a difference.
- An organisation who is leading the way in creating dynamic and flexible roles for volunteers.
- An organisation who successfully manages their service delivery through combining different categories of volunteers - from corporate volunteer groups to flexible volunteering.

[Nomination Form](#)



Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award honours volunteers who have shown a lifelong commitment to supporting and improving the communities around them. Such volunteers have given endless time and energy to causes they are passionate about, leading change and inspiring others.

This award might be appropriate for someone who:

- Has been volunteering for over ten years.
- Has had a significant positive impact through their volunteering.
- Has created a legacy for the causes they volunteer with.
- Has transformed their community through consistent, passionate service.
- Has dedicated their life to supporting those most in need with compassion and dignity.

[Nomination Form](#)



Neighbourhood Champion Award

The Neighbourhood Champion Award celebrates the unsung heroes of Gloucestershire communities. This award seeks to celebrate individuals who are making a real difference to people and places in their neighbourhoods.

This award might be appropriate for someone who:

- Consistently volunteers their time to support community initiatives.
- Offers support to their neighbours (such as helping with their garden, walking dogs or checking in on them).
- Makes our streets, villages, towns or cities more caring, supportive or welcoming and better places to live.

[Nomination Form](#)



Corporate Volunteering Award

The Corporate Volunteering Award celebrates the organisations that go above and beyond to support their local community or causes. Corporate Volunteering can have an incredible impact in our communities, often enabling charities or groups to achieve big projects which wouldn't otherwise be possible.

Organisations nominated for this award might:

- Have an Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) policy and actively encourage employees to volunteer during work time.
- Facilitate staff volunteering (such as team days and trusteeship).
- Be able to demonstrate the positive impact that their volunteering has made.

[Nomination Form](#)

Volunteer Impact Award

The Volunteer Impact Award celebrates those volunteers who have made a significant positive impact to the lives of others. This award shines a light on those who go above and beyond to support others.

This award might be appropriate for someone who:

- Has had a significant positive impact through their volunteering.
- Acts as a role model for other volunteers, supporting, guiding and inspiring others in their team.

[Nomination Form](#)

Children and young person's support volunteer Award

This award celebrates volunteers who go above and beyond in supporting services for children and young people. From raising school funds, to running youth groups, reading with children and supporting young families, this award is for volunteers who make a real difference to young people's lives.

This award might be appropriate for someone who:

- Volunteers their time supporting any cause related to children and young people, including those that support children and young people indirectly (e.g. PTAs).
- Creates safe, supportive spaces where children and young people can be themselves.
- Runs youth groups, children's clubs, activities, and programs that build confidence and skills.
- Helps young voices be heard and empower youth to make positive choices.
- Goes above and beyond to support vulnerable children and young people.

[Nomination Form](#)



Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year Award is awarded to the volunteer who judges feel exemplifies the community spirit, consistency and compassion which volunteers are known and loved for. **This award will be selected by our panel of judges from all the nominations received from the following categories: Rising Star Award, Trustee of the Year Award, Sports Volunteer Award, Volunteer Impact Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, Neighbourhood Champion Award, Children and Young People's Volunteer Award.**

FAQs

Who can be nominated?

Award Category	Who can be nominated?
Trustee of the Year Award	Individuals who are aged 18 and over who have held a voluntary trustee/director position for at least one year within Gloucestershire
Rising Star Award	Individuals under 18 years of age (at the time of nomination) who are currently volunteering within Gloucestershire
Lifetime Achievement Award	Individuals who are aged 18 and over and have volunteered for ten or more years within Gloucestershire
Children and Young People's Volunteer Award	Individuals aged 18 and over whose volunteer role supports children and young people aged under 18 within Gloucestershire
Sports Volunteer Award	Individuals aged 18 and over whose volunteer role supports sporting activities within Gloucestershire
Volunteer Impact Award	Individuals aged 18 and over who are currently volunteering within Gloucestershire
Neighbourhood Champion Award	Individuals aged 18 and over who are currently volunteering within Gloucestershire
Community Group Award	Volunteer-led groups delivering services within Gloucestershire
Corporate Volunteering Award	Organisations (including limited companies, limited liability partnerships, social enterprises and charities) that currently operate an Employer Supported Volunteering scheme for employees.
Best Organisation to Volunteer With in 2026	Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations that benefit from volunteers.

We recommend reading the full [terms and conditions](#) for all the details.

How do I submit a nomination?

To nominate, simply go to the Gloucestershire Volunteer Awards webpage on Go Volunteer Glos ([click here](#)) and complete a nomination form, or click the links in this document. There is a separate form for each category, so please ensure you fill out the correct one.

How can I nominate if I'm unable to complete the online form?

The Go Volunteer Glos team are happy to assist you in submitting a nomination. Please get in touch and we can discuss how best to do this with you.

How can I get in touch with you to discuss a nomination?

You can get in touch with a member of the Go Volunteer Glos team either via email: support@govolunteerglos.org or telephone: 01242 858944

When will we find out the finalists?

We will begin informing those shortlisted the week of the 9th March 2026. Please ensure that the contact details requested on the nomination form are completed correctly and in full to enable us to do this promptly.

When is the award ceremony?

The award ceremony will take place on the evening of Friday 5th June 2026 at Hatherley Manor Hotel and Spa, Gloucester.

How can I book tickets?

Tickets for non-finalists will open for booking from April 2026. Please keep an eye on our social media and News Bulletin for the announcement.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please ensure you read and accept our full Terms and Conditions before making a nomination. These can be found [here](#) or on the Go Volunteer Glos website.

GET IN TOUCH

Have a question? The team at Go Volunteer Glos are happy to help, get in touch with us.

Phone

01242 8589

Email

support@govolunteerglos.org