



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

The Queen's Award for voluntary Service is an annual award made to recognise and reward excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community.

The award was announced in 2002 as part of the celebrations for The Queen's Golden Jubilee, and was first known as The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award.

It was given for outstanding achievement by groups of volunteers who regularly devote their time to helping others in the community, improving the quality of life and opportunity for others and providing an outstanding service.

Groups must be nominated for example, by beneficiaries of their work, members of the public, representatives of public bodies, or other voluntary groups. Nominations are assessed by a regional committee before being passed to a national committee for final selection and recommendation to The Queen.

Details of winners are announced annually on 2 June (the anniversary of The Queen's Coronation).

Winning groups receive a certificate signed by The Queen and a commemorative piece of crystal for display at the group's main place of operation. The Awards are presented on behalf of The Queen by the local Lord-Lieutenant or Lieutenant-Governor.

Many different types of organisation have won the award since it was launched, including groups working to improve the local environment, running community centres, managing play schemes and supporting families.

Further information is available from:

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service
Award Administrator

0207 271 6206

queensaward@culture.gov.uk

Guide to The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK.

Who is eligible

Any group of 2 or more people doing volunteering work can be nominated for the award. The majority of the group must be volunteers, and more than half the volunteers must have the right to live in the UK.

To be nominated they should do work that:

- Provides a service and meets a need for people living in the local community
- Is supported, recognised and respected by the local community and the people who benefit from it
- Is run locally

Volunteer groups should have been running for three years or more to be nominated.

What the winners get

Winners get a certificate signed by the Queen and a commemorative piece of crystal. Representatives from the group may also be invited to attend a royal garden party.

How the winners are decided

Local assessment panels look at all the nominations and decide which ones to send to the National Award Committee.

The committee makes recommendations to the Cabinet Office, which sends a final list to the Queen for her approval

Winners are announced on June 2 every year.

How to make a nomination online

You can nominate a group if you're not part of it. You can make your nomination at any time, and there are notes to help you.

Nominate a group for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service online <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk>

Support your nomination

When you nominate a group you also need letters from 2 people who support your nomination.

They can be:

- A volunteer with the group
- Someone who benefits from their work
- Someone who is aware of their work

If one of the supporters falls into any of the above categories, the other must be completely independent of the group.

All nominations must be submitted on line by a specified date September (date set out on gov.uk) to make sure the group is initially considered the year after they are nominated.