

Excellence in Volunteering Award Nomination

FAQs

What are the Excellence in Volunteering Awards?

The Excellence in Volunteering Awards (EVAs) are awards for volunteers who have excelled and gone the extra mile in their volunteering roles and positively impacted on an individual, their team, their community, or the wider RNLI.

What is Excellence in Volunteering?

Excellence in Volunteering is where an individual or group exceeds what is expected of them in their usual volunteering role. For example, when they undertake a specific event, action or achievement above and beyond what they usually do, which has a significant positive impact. If your nomination solely relates to long service, please visit our [Recognition and Awards page on the Volunteer Zone](#), and scroll down to the Long Service Awards section where you can find details of how and when to nominate.

Who can be nominated?

Any volunteer or volunteer group can be nominated. EVAs are designed to recognise active volunteers, so you cannot nominate someone who is retiring/retired or who supports the RNLI but is not a registered volunteer (i.e. a RNLI supporter). Details of how to recognise our RNLI supporters can be found on the [Recognition and Awards page on the Volunteer Zone](#), and scrolling down to the Supporter Awards section.

Who can nominate?

Nominations are accepted from anyone who is a volunteer or member of staff of the RNLI.

When can I nominate?

Nominations are open throughout the year.

How do I nominate?

Nominations can be made via an online form on the Volunteer Zone [recognition and awards page](#)

You will need to fill in the form with your details, the details of the individual or group you are nominating, and details of why you are nominating them for an EVA.

What should be included in the nomination citation?

You will be directed through the form and asked to fill in the following information:

- Why should this volunteer be considered for an EVA?
- How does this person go above and beyond the expectations in their volunteer role?
- What positive impact did they have? *(You will be asked to select one or more of the options given, e.g. team or crew morale and support, public awareness and promotion, community links, etc. This is not role based.)*

- Explain the positive impact on an individual, the team, the community, the wider organisation and whether this impact was local, regional, national, or international.

You should be as specific as possible when answering these questions and give as much detail as you can. Include any figures or examples that will support the nomination (e.g. internal/external feedback received, improvements made, number of people reached, income raised, etc) and how this compares to previous years.

What happens once I have submitted my nomination?

Your nomination will initially be forwarded to the nominee's staff Volunteer Manager (e.g. Area Operations Manager, Community Manager, Water Safety Education Manager, etc) to give them the opportunity to add any additional information they feel could support your nomination. The Volunteer Recognition Team will then advise you whether your nomination is to be put to the EVA Panel for consideration and if not, suggest an alternative way to recognise the nominee.

How it is assessed

Nominations will be presented by the Volunteer Recognition Team to the EVA Panel for consideration at the next available meeting. The panel sits every two weeks (apart from the Christmas and New Year period) to discuss and decide on the outcome of nominations. Nominations received middle of December will be considered in early January the following year.

The panel ensure that all nominations are assessed in a fair and consistent manner and will make the final decision on what is awarded.

Once the panel have met, you will be informed of the next steps. Either that:

- the nomination has been successful and then informed of the type of award that will be issued;
or
- the panel require more information from you or another person before they can decide
or
- the nomination has been unsuccessful and that a certificate of thanks will be issued.

Why would my nomination not be submitted to the Panel?

Examples would be where there is insufficient evidence to support your nomination or where an alternative form of recognition is more appropriate, e.g. Long Service Awards, local recognition.

Can I renominate a volunteer for an EVA?

If you have additional information which you consider would strengthen your nomination, then you are free to submit a new nomination for that individual. Your previous nomination will have been closed.

Who sits on the EVA Panel?

The panel consists of staff representatives from the across the RNLI and Regions. The Panel meets every two weeks.

How long is the process?

From your nomination being received and, if successful, an award being issued will take around six weeks.

What are the types of awards available?

There are a range of awards available from framed certificates of thanks, RNLI crystals (some of which can be engraved) to a limited-edition Chair's book.

Where will the award be delivered?

If your nomination is successful, the award can either be sent to you to present, or direct to the nominee. If you are unsure where it should be sent as, for example you are nominating a volunteer from another team, please contact volunteer_recognition@rnli.org.uk

If you have any other questions, please email volunteer_recognition@rnli.org.uk