

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why has v established the vinspired awards Approved Provider scheme?

v believes that every young volunteer should be rewarded for their efforts and contributions and recognised for the important role they play in transforming communities. To make this possible for **all** young volunteers, regardless of where they do their volunteering, the vinspired awards are now available online through our website – www.vinspired.com.

As a result, v has taken the decision to enable non-funded organisations to deliver and validate the vinspired awards with their young volunteers directly. In order to facilitate this, v has introduced a Approved Provider process. This process requires organisations to register with v to deliver the vinspired awards, and entitles them to a number of benefits not available to non-approved organisations. v will send you more information about this in due course.

Q. Why is it necessary for v to ask for the information requested in the Approved Provider Application Form?

As part of the application process for v funding, organisations had to prove that they had the proper processes and procedures in place for working with young people. Therefore, in the interest of ensuring the same level of quality provision for all v's activities, the appropriate checks need to be made to ensure Approved Providers are suitable to validate the awards for young people.

Q. What do I do if I receive an application from young volunteer I don't know or haven't met?

Validators that receive validation requests from young people unknown to them are able to send the application to the Central Validation Team to be processed. Validators can do this by firstly selecting the young volunteer's application from the home page and then opting to 'Change organisation'. Validators should select the Central Validation Team appear as an option in the drop down list. Validators are also able to send emails to that young person by selecting the 'messages' tab. Using this area they can inform the young person that their application has been forwarded.

Q. Who will incur the cost of printing/photocopying downloadable versions of the awards for young volunteers to complete off-line?

v expects the vast majority of young volunteers to access the awards online. v cannot cover the costs of printing hard copy versions of the awards materials.

Q. How do project co-ordinators sign off and agree hours for young volunteers undertaking the vinspired awards?

There is no fixed requirement for organisations to sign off hours online. Volunteers who want to apply for an award are asked to provide supporting evidence, which may be an online reference, but may also be achieved by uploading pictures, videos, scanned copies of hard copy references etc.

Q. What is v doing to ensure equal access to all young people including young people with additional support needs?

As with any award scheme, some young volunteers may require additional support from project staff or peers in order to apply for their award. The website has been designed to be fully accessible to all young people, and it also complies with guidance set out under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

v has also invested in comprehensive help to complete the awards, including online live help and telephone support. Where projects or teams feel appropriate, they can still print hard copy versions of the resources which can be used by young volunteers.

Q. Are organisations able to record the details of certificates online?

Yes. Once an award has been approved on line, the Validator can record the issue number of the certificate online. By selecting the 'validations page,' organisations are able to add this information in the final column which displays the status.

Q. What information about the young person will Organisation Administrators, Validators and the central team have access to?

Organisation administrators, Validators and the central validation team will only have access to information that has been provided by the young person via their vifty or vimpact application form or additional information that they have provided in emails directly to the Validator or central team. They will not have access to volunteers' information as they are collating it/completing their hours. Organisation Administrators, Validators, the central team and v will only have access to the information for validation and not any personal data about young people.

Q. As an Approved Provider will I have to offer v-inspired awards to my young volunteers?

No. The v-inspired awards do not replace any accreditation / recognition scheme that organisations may be undertaking with young volunteers (e.g. Youth Achievement Awards, Duke of Edinburgh Award, OCN etc). However, the v-inspired awards are designed to be complementary and can be completed as either stand alone awards, or alongside other types of accreditation. This means young people can achieve both the v-inspired awards and any other accreditation / recognition your organisation is offering.