



Know a great volunteer?

TRAVEL

Listed below are our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) showing the answers to common questions about the National Awards.

About the categories

How do I decide what category to nominate someone for?

You should think very carefully about the person you are nominating and decide what it is that makes them really stand out – is it because they are a great leader, or an inspirational team? Or is it because they are new to volunteering and have brought new energy? Or because they have campaigned about an important issue? Once you have decided why they are so special you should look at the different award category information on the website and decide which category the person you are nominating is most suited to.

Why are some of the awards categories from last year missing?

You will notice that the categories of 'eco' and 'genius' and 'inspire' have disappeared since last year. This is as a result of feedback from young people, the funded network and v20 that it was hard to nominate people in these categories. So this year if you know someone who has come up with a new idea or who has had an impact on the environment you need to think about how they have done this – is it through teamwork? Leadership? Campaigning? Have they brought communities together? Do they embody the spirit of volunteering? Then you can nominate them for another award.

Feedback also indicated that the **Bridge Award** and the **Transform Award** were too similar so they have been merged together to become the **Connect Award**.

Why are there three new awards?

Feedback indicated that people wanted an award to recognize long term commitment and dedication to volunteering; so we have introduced the **Spirit Award**. Feedback also indicated that there was a need to recognize people who carried on volunteering in spite of challenges they faced; so we have introduced the **Triumph Award**.

Feedback also indicated that the **Bridge Award** and the **Transform Award** were too similar so they have been merged together to become the **Connect Award**. This is an award for individuals or teams who have brought people from different backgrounds together through their volunteering.

INSPIRING

Can v change the category that I nominate someone in?

v will try and judge the person you are nominating in the category that you select, however if the judging panel thinks that the nominee has a better chance of winning an award in a different category we do reserve the right to reassign the nominee to a different award category.

About the nomination process & criteria

Why is there only one nomination form?

Based on feedback from people nominating and people judging the nominations last year it was decided that having multiple nomination forms was too confusing. So this year there is only one form; but don't worry you can still select which category you want your nominee to be considered for – you do this once you have started to complete the form.

What is volunteering?

v defines volunteering as an activity which you choose to do (you don't have to!) that involves spending time, unpaid, doing a form of activity which benefits others in the community, society or the environment.

What do you mean by community?

v defines community as the group of people that benefit from volunteering. They may be a group of people who live in the same area or who have a common interest, or form a distinct segment of society.

What does the criteria 'volunteers in England' mean?

To be eligible for an award the majority of a person's volunteering and the people, community and/or environment that benefit from that volunteering must be based in England. While part of the volunteering can be international, most of it should have taken place in England.

Can I nominate someone who started their volunteering before August 2009?

Yes, for all categories except the 'Fresh Award.' For all other categories, the person you nominate may have started their volunteering prior to August 2009 but they must have continued to volunteer since August 2009 and it is this volunteering they will be judged on.

Can I nominate someone for volunteering they have done before August 2009?

You can only nominate someone based on the volunteering they have completed since August 2009. They may however, have begun volunteering on a project prior to this date. You may include details of volunteering they have done prior to this date on the nomination form but the majority of the volunteering should have been completed since August 2009.

Can I nominate someone if I nominated them last year?

Yes, but you should make sure you include information about the volunteering they have done since the last awards (August 2009) within the nomination form.

Can I nominate a winner from last year?

Yes, but you should make sure you include information about the volunteering they have done since the last awards (August 2009) within the nomination form as it is this information that they will be judged on.

Do the volunteers you nominate have to be part of a scheme or project funded by v or have some involvement with v to be nominated?

No, the awards are open to all young people regardless of whether or not they volunteered through a v funded project or team.

The young person I want to nominate is 25 but will be 26 by the time the awards ceremony takes place can I still nominate them for an award?

Yes, as long as the person you are nominating is 25 by the time the nominations close on the 30th September 2010 and has done some volunteering when they are 25 that is fine.

The young person I want to nominate is 16 but they started their volunteering when they were 15, can I nominate them for an award?

Yes, as long as the person you are nominating is 16 by the time the nominations close on the 30th September 2010 and has done some volunteering when they are 16 that is fine.

Can I nominate a family member?

Yes.

Can I nominate someone for more than 1 award?

You can only nominate someone for one award. Through the screening and assessment process at v we will ensure that your nominee is entered into the category where they stand the best chance of winning. It is unlikely they will be considered for an award in more than one category.

Does it help if I nominate one person a lot of times for an award?

No the number of times someone is nominated does not affect the judging process; the nominees will be judged on the quality of what is written about them in the nomination form.

Can I nominate more than 1 person for the same award?

Yes. You can nominate as many people as you wish for each award.

Can I nominate different people for different awards?

Yes.

What are the criteria for nominating a young volunteer?

The young volunteer must be aged between 16 and 25 on the 30th September 2010 to be nominated for an award. They must have been volunteering in the last year; since August 2009 (they can have been volunteering before this time as well). Finally the majority of their volunteering must have been taking place in England and benefiting communities in England.

What are the criteria for nominating a support worker?

The support worker must work for a non for profit organisation (this is an organisation that does not make money for people but puts money back into the running of the organisation to provide a service). They must have been supporting young people volunteering in the last year; since August 2009 they must have been supporting young people volunteering in England.

What is a team?

A team is a group of volunteers who do volunteering activities together. What they do would not be possible as individuals; they make a difference because they all bring different skills and qualities to reach one goal. A team can be two or more volunteers working together.

Do I have to complete an online nomination?

Yes. You can complete it over a 7 day period, by saving it and coming back to it. If you know someone who wants to complete a nomination form but who doesn't have access to a computer then please contact 0207 960 7000 to request a paper based form. It really helps us if people complete the form online, so please do this where possible!

Do I need to supply additional evidence with the nomination form?

No. Judging on a regional level will be completed using the information that is written on your nomination form. However, before a shortlisted nominee is awarded regionally, **v** will undertake a process to ensure the validity of information provided on the nomination form. The nominator and or the nominee may be contacted as part of this process.

Who has the final say about who wins an award?

Please refer to the judging process guidance which can be found on the national awards homepage.

I've got a question can I ring anyone for advice?

Yes, you can ring our helpline on 0207 960 7000.

About the ceremony

Can under 18's attend the award ceremony?

Yes, as long as they are over 16. Young people aged between 16 and 18 MUST be accompanied by an adult chaperone who will need to be agreed in advance by **v**.

Can I come to the award ceremony?

If you are a regional winner and/or shortlisted for the national awards you can come to the event. If you are on a regional panel you will get a ticket to the national awards, (to apply to be a panellist follow the link on the website). If you are a young person who has not been nominated for an award or are not on a regional panel you can enter a ballot on the website to win a pair of tickets. If you are an adult nominating a volunteer or support worker you can only attend if you are invited as the guest of a regional winner or a chaperone for a young person.