

INFORMATION PACK 2024

Rotary **YOUNG**
ENVIRONMENTALIST
COMPETITION



[ROTARYGBI.ORG](https://rotarygbi.org)

Hosted by

Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland 

Information Pack for 2023-24

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Information Pack for 2023 – 2024

THEME: – ‘Waste Minimisation’

Introduction

The Rotary Young Environmentalist Competition is organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary GB&I).

There are three stages to the competition, each designed to support and encourage the development of environmental skills. Some stages may have more than one round. The winning entries at stage 1 (Local Heats) will pass on to stage 2 (District Final) and, winning entries at that stage will be put forward to the National Finals.

Aims and Objectives

The competition aims to encourage young people to:

- interact with the environment
- address serious environmental issues
- develop and explore solutions to the issues
- explore, investigate, research and undertake an environmental sustainability project

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all young people in the age groups shown below. They may be an individual or from any group (up to 4 participants) or community organisation including schools and college communities, home educated, other young peoples' community organisations, for example, community RotaKids, community Interact, Scout Groups, Girl Guides, Church Groups etc.

The three age groups are:

Junior	Up to and including 10 years old
Intermediate	11 to 13 years old
Senior	14 to 17 years old

Entrants must not be over the upper age parameter for each group on 31st August 2023.

With the age qualifying date of 31st August 2023, it should be noted that some junior entrants may be 11, intermediate entrants may be 14 and some senior entrants may be 18 at the time of some or all the stage competitions e.g., a competitor who may be 17 on 31st August but turns 18 on 1st September is allowed to enter. **Competitors must include their age on the application form.**

Entrants should normally enter the competition organised by a local Rotary club either as individuals or groups of up to 4 as detailed above.

Local Rotary clubs can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org.

In case of difficulty in finding a local club please contact the Rotary Young Environmentalist Team Lead Keith Tovey for assistance: young-environmentalist@rotarygbi.org.

There are two categories in the competition in each age group

- An individual entry
- Group entries (maximum of four participants)

The Three Stages of the Competition

Local Heats

These are organised by local Rotary clubs with the winning entry from each category in each age group is then entered into a district competition.

Local Rotary clubs can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org.

District Finals

These are organised by each Rotary district for the winners of the local heats for each age group in each category. The winners for each age group in each category at the district level are entered into the National Final.

National Final

The National Final is organised by Rotary GB&I and the winning entry in both the individual and group categories in each age group is submitted by each of the districts.

Entries are to be sent digitally by the districts by the deadline of **Tuesday 30th April 2024** to the Rotary Support Centre. Where there is a group entry, the individual contributions of each group member should be clearly stated. Where possible entries are only to be submitted electronically though there may be exceptions such as 3D models.

Deadline dates for both local heats and District Finals will be determined by each district. Entrants should check dates with their local Rotary club in the first instance. Any entries submitted after agreed local deadlines will not be accepted.

Competition Guidelines

Task

To undertake an environmental sustainability project based upon the theme of '**Waste Minimisation**'. It should raise awareness of a particular problem within the given topic area and inspire action to respond to the growing awareness of the problem.

Select a topic within the theme and undertake some research and exploration into the current magnitude of the issues associated with **Waste Minimisation**.

Entrants may work on projects on their own or as part of a group of not more than 4 people.

They should decide and develop their own ideas while undertaking the project and offering solutions.

Possible projects could be approached from different angles and perspectives and might include one or more topics such as those listed below.

- Engage in Litter Picking/ Beach Cleaning Activities with video or documentary evidence or weight collected
- Adopt a public space and track how much waste is collected over a period of time
- Benchmark the magnitude of the problem in local area (e.g. how much waste is generated in the home, school, or community)
- Explore ways to reduce the premature discarding of viable products
- Survey attitudes to waste under the theme of Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle
- Turn waste into new useful objects or works of Art
- Address the problems associated with Fast Fashion
- Explore innovative ways of using plastic
- Analyse secondary statistical data on waste from Official Publications
- Obtain and map photographic evidence of litter in the environment
- Develop an App to track location of waste
- Reduce the amount of travel in private vehicles

These are just some ideas and young people are also encouraged to develop their own projects within the general theme of **Waste Minimisation**.

Students in the older age group are encouraged to explore and develop new concepts other than those regularly reported in the popular press.

Outcomes

Young people should engage with the Environment and identify current issues.

Projects should be eye catching, present a balanced viewpoint exhibiting understanding of the environmental problem, and showcase a solution or suggest an innovative new idea for solving the environmental issue.

Presentation

Entrants can choose the format the project is to be presented in. These might include one or more of the following:

- Written and illustrated submissions
- Photographic or artistic presentations
- Audio or video reports (because of space limitations for email, it is likely to be preferable to provide a YouTube Link for videos and related presentations).
- A tangible product such as an App for smart phone
- Interactive conversations or creative movement

Written reports should be well illustrated and be no more than 1000 words long.

Poster displays should be A3 or A4 in size in colour or black and white with images and text.

Audio or Video presentations should not exceed 5 minutes for individual presentations or 10 minutes for group presentations.

Please Note: Projects which incorporate photographic images of people under 18 years or vulnerable adults must be accompanied by consent forms for the use of those photographic images.

Judging Criteria

Evidence, Research and Effectiveness

The project must demonstrate that exploration and some research has been undertaken. The aims of the project must clearly be stated, and outcomes must be capable of assessment and demonstrate sustainability. It is important that the Environmental Problem chosen focuses on the theme set for 2023–24 – i.e., **Waste Minimisation**. In past years, some entrants have focussed entirely on other Environmental Problems and have been marked down in the final judging rounds.

Particular Credit will be given to those projects which involve the participants engaging pro-actively in projects.

Innovation and Adaptability

New concepts and ideas are valuable and will be recognized and the project should be capable of replication by others based on the information provided.

Beneficiaries and what lessons have been learnt

What would the benefit of the project be to the community or society as a whole? Is it likely to be cost effective and what problems, if any, have been encountered? How could such a project be improved in future?

Presentation

How much information has been given? Is it imaginative and eye catching? What is the impact? Is it easy to follow and understand? What is the quality of the content?

Evidence of Teamwork

If undertaken in a group (up to 4 young people), what is the evidence of participation of individual members in the team?

Plagiarism or Close Copied Images

Plagiarised or 'close-copied' images are not permitted in any competition. It is important that we protect the work of creative individuals. Whilst we are all inspired by the work of others, there is without doubt a grey area where inspiration carries over to close copying. For our competitions 'close copying' is where, to a reasonable person, the submitted entry appears remarkably similar in significant important respects to a body of work created elsewhere. We are looking for original pieces, not copies, which match the theme of the competition.

Recognition

At all stages of the competition, competitors will receive a certificate of participation

How to enter

Entries should ideally be made through your local Rotary club which can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org. In case of difficulty, entries may be submitted to a club outside their geographic area, and in such circumstances contact should be made with the Rotary Young Environmentalist Team Lead, Keith Tovey for assistance: young-environmentalist@rotarygbi.org.

Entrants need to complete an entry form, available from their local Rotary club and submit it along with their project, to the local organizer by the agreed deadline. It is essential that the name of the competitor or team of competitors and their project is clearly linked with the right entry form and any necessary consent forms for photographic images used if applicable.

All entries should be submitted electronically.

IMPORTANT RESTRICTION TO NOTE: Please note that entries and supporting information sent electronically **MUST NOT EXCEED 15Mb per email sent**. This is likely to apply to Videos, and a suggested method for submission is to generate a YouTube Video and forward the link in a covering email. Alternative options are to send the nomination and supporting information across as several emails.

Rotary Youth Competitions and other opportunities for young people

The Young Environmentalist Competition is one of a number of competitions for young people organised by Rotary GB&I. The others are: Young Artist; Young Chef; Youth Speaks: A Debate; Young Filmmaker; Young Musician; Young Photographer; and Young Writer. There are also annual Rotary Young Citizen Awards, a number of clubs organise Technology Tournaments and there are several Rotary specific programmes including RotaKids, Interact, Developing Future Leaders and more. To find out more about these competitions and other opportunities please contact your local Rotary club in the first instance for what is happening locally and also take a look at <https://www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/>.

Working with Children

Rotary GB&I has adopted this statement of policy in working with children, vulnerable adults and those with disability:

The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of their ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact during their Rotarian duties.