

# Rotary **YOUNG** **CITIZEN** AWARDS



**INFORMATION PACK**

**2025-26**



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

**Rotary**   
Great Britain & Ireland

# Information Pack for 2025-26

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# Information Pack for 2025-26

The Rotary Young Citizen Awards were created by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary GB&I) to recognise and celebrate the achievements and commitment of inspiring young people in these islands. There are many young positive role-models who are going out of their way to make a difference, and these Awards are a way to showcase the good that young people are doing.

## Who is eligible for nomination?

The Rotary Young Citizen Awards are for young people, or groups of young people, under the age of 25 who have demonstrated outstanding citizenship. This may include personal achievements, taking on important responsibilities, making an impactful contribution to their community, or otherwise standing out through their actions and character.

Nominees do not need to be involved in a Rotary project. What matters is that they have made a positive difference, individually or as part of a group and this is now recognised by a local Rotary club, Rotary district or another individual or organisation such as schools, colleges, universities, local authorities, youth groups or uniformed brigades who is nominating them. Examples of eligible nominees include community champions, young carers, fundraisers, volunteers, or young people who have shown courage or overcome challenges.

**Please note:** Young people working full time for a charity or community organisation are not eligible for that work, unless they are the founder of that charity or organisation.

## Rotary Young Citizen Awards

The Rotary Young Citizen Awards have no set categories, meaning nominations are open to a broad and diverse range of young people making a difference in their own way.

In addition to the main Rotary Young Citizen Awards, there are three specific award categories, each recognising a particular area of impact. All are open to individuals or groups under the age of 25.

### Rotary Young Citizen Environmentalist Award

This award reflects Rotary's focus on the Environment and recognises young people who are passionate about protecting the environment. This may include:

- launching or participating in projects or campaigns (e.g. Community cleanups, conservation work, and surveys)
- initiatives addressing or campaigning about issues such as rewilding, reforestation, plastic production, fast fashion or recycling
- setting up an environmental interest group, educational project, charity or community interest company (CIC).

### Rotary Young Citizen Peacemaker Award

Reflecting Rotary's focus on promoting peace this award recognises young people who have made a significant contribution to building peace and understanding – locally or internationally. Examples may include:

- tackling antisocial behaviour or youth crime through mentoring or community engagement
- leading or participating in peacebuilding projects in schools or communities
- working to promote social cohesion, dialogue or cultural understanding.

### Rotary Young Citizen Sporting Hero Award

This Award recognises the achievements of young people in sport, either as participants or by enabling others to take part. Nominees will have achieved exceptional things in the world of sport, be it able-bodied or disability sport and examples might include:

- demonstrating the power of sport in positively transforming their own life and/or the lives of others
- acting as a role model within their community through sport

- showing outstanding commitment, determination and dedication in their chosen sport(s).

### How to make a nomination for any of these Rotary Young Citizen Awards

Anyone can nominate a young person or group of young people (under the age of 25) for a Rotary Young Citizen Award, including the three specific awards (Environmentalism, Peacemaker or Sporting Hero). All nominations must be submitted to a Rotary club.

Rotary clubs may also make one or more of their own nominations for any of the awards.

If you are considering making a nomination, it means you already recognise a young person or group whose actions have made a significant difference—locally, nationally, or internationally. By nominating them, you are acknowledging their commitment and you believe they should receive recognition for their achievements.

#### Step 1: Contact your local Rotary club

To begin the nomination process, contact your local Rotary club using the club finder in the top left-hand corner of the Rotary GB&I website [www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org). If you're unable to reach a local club or if you have any questions, please email the Rotary GB&I Competitions Team at [competitions@rotarygbi.org](mailto:competitions@rotarygbi.org).

#### Step 2: Nomination Form

Your local Rotary club will provide you with a nomination form and confirm the local submission deadline. Complete the form and return it along with any supporting materials.

Please include as much relevant information about the young person/people nominated as necessary to help the judging panel understand the nominee's contribution and impact. This may include

- media coverage e.g. newspapers, websites, social media
- video evidence e.g. YouTube links
- written testimonials e.g. from schools, youth groups, organisations or people who have benefitted from their help
- charity or project details e.g. registration numbers, websites
- relevant statistics or outcomes of the nominee's work
- a video (use of a mobile phone is acceptable) of their work or project.

Don't rely solely on links. Clear explanations and documentation strengthen the nomination.

If you need assistance, please email the Rotary GB&I Competitions Team at [competitions@rotarygbi.org](mailto:competitions@rotarygbi.org).

#### **IMPORTANT: Consent for images of people under 18 or adults at risk**

Please note that if any of the information to be submitted with the nomination contains images of people under 18 or adults at risk, a signed consent form/s must be submitted with that nomination (see below)

### Rotary club endorsement of nominations

Each Rotary club will review the nominations it receives including those it has made itself. A club will then submit to Rotary GB&I all nominations that, after due consideration, it has chosen to endorse.

All endorsed nominations must be submitted by the Rotary club or Rotary district to Rotary GB&I by the deadline of **Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.

Local clubs will specify an earlier deadline to allow time for review so **please be sure to submit your nomination by the earlier date they have specified to you**.

### Recognition as a nominee

Every nominee whose entry is endorsed and submitted by a Rotary club by the deadline will receive a personalised certificate from Rotary GB&I, recognising the achievement that led to their nomination.

## Selection of Winners

All eligible nominations submitted by Rotary clubs to Rotary GB&I will be reviewed by a judging panel appointed by Rotary GB&I. The panel will consist of individuals with appropriate experience and expertise.

Nominees will be notified if they are a winner or not once the judging process is complete.

## Winners of the Rotary Young Citizen Awards

Each winner of a Rotary Young Citizen Award will receive a trophy, a certificate of recognition and a £250 donation to a registered charity or registered community interest company of their choice.

All winners will be invited to attend the Awards Presentation Ceremony on **Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026** at a venue to be announced in due course.

The moral support of friends, family and the sponsoring club and district are important at the event on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Sponsoring clubs or districts are responsible in the first instance for the expenses of winners of the Rotary young Citizen Awards. No expenses are funded by Rotary GB&I.

## Celebrating young talent together

The 2026 Rotary Young Citizen Awards Ceremony will be taking place alongside the national finals of Rotary Young Chef and Rotary Young Musician. We encourage everyone to stay for the full event to celebrate and be inspired by the achievements of young people.

## Media and Public Relations

If a nominee is selected as a winner, the Rotary GB&I Public Relations team may get in touch to arrange the filming of a short video about them and their achievements including an interview. This will be used for promotional and celebratory purposes. The details will be discussed and agreed in advance with the nominee and their parent/guardian where appropriate.

The Rotary GB&I Public Relations team may also collaborate with the Rotary club and Rotary district to support local and national PR coverage, helping celebrate the winners' achievements.

## Further Information

More information can be found on the [Rotary Young Citizen Awards Page](#) of the Rotary GB&I website. Take a look at last year's Rotary Young Citizen Awardees by going to: [Rotary Young Citizen Award Winners 2025](#).

## Rotary Youth Competitions and other opportunities for young people

Take a look at <https://www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/> to explore

- the Rotary Youth Competitions: Artist, Chef, Environmentalist, Musician, Photographer, Writer, Youth Speaks and Youth Speaks A Debate

You may wish to enter more than one competition or Award.

You'll also find information about

- Rotary Technology Tournaments which are organised in many areas
- Rotary programmes including RotaKids, Interact, and Developing Future Leaders
- Rotary Youth Exchange and more

There may be additional opportunities available locally - connect with Rotarians in your area to find out what's happening near you.

### 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.

Click here to see the [Rotary GB&I Safeguarding Policy](#)

## **Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland Young Citizen Awards consent form for use of images of young people under 18 years or adults at risk**

Rotary GB&I Young Citizen Awards Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The young person named above is being nominated for the Rotary GB&I Young Citizen Awards 2025/26 and is requesting permission to use your image/s as part of their submission. This may mean that your image could be used by Rotary GB&I for the following purposes:

1. Rotary social media platforms
2. Rotary websites
3. Media coverage such as newspapers or other publications

### **Image Retention**

Once shared, your image may continue to appear elsewhere depending on how it was used e.g. in newspaper articles, website, posters, etc. If shared with third parties their privacy policies will apply.

If you believe the image is being used inappropriately, please inform the endorsing Rotary Club immediately.

### **Groups**

A separate form must be completed for each young person or adult at risk whose image is being used.

### **Parent/Guardian/Carer Consent Statement**

I give consent for the image of the person named below to be used by the Nominee for the purposes outlined above

Print FIRST name of child or adult at risk:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian/Carer Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of person signing:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child or adult at risk:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach this form to the competition submission that includes the image/s**

*\*This form is available as a separate document*