

Rotary **YOUNG WRITER** COMPETITION



INFORMATION PACK

2026-27



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

Rotary 
Great Britain & Ireland

Information Pack for 2026-27

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THEME – ‘Friendship’

The ‘Friendship’ theme can be interpreted as broadly as the Young Writer wishes and does not need to conform to a dictionary definition. Young people are encouraged to use their creativity to show what this theme means to them.

Introduction

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

There are three stages to the competition, designed to support and encourage the development of writing skills. Some stages may include more than one round to select entrants progressing to the next stage.

Aims and Objectives

This competition aims to encourage young people to:

- develop their writing skills and creativity
- express their thoughts and ideas through the written word
- interpret the theme thoughtfully
- enjoy writing as a rewarding means of self-expression

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all young people living within a Rotary Great Britain and Ireland district, including Gibraltar, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, provided they fall within the age groups shown below. They may be an individual choosing to enter directly themselves or amongst the entries submitted by a group or community organisation including schools and colleges, home educated, other young peoples’ community organisations, for example, community RotaKids or Interact, Scout Groups, Girl Guides, etc.

For entrants with motor control difficulties, an amanuensis may be used to record the entrant’s work to paper.

Age groups (based on age as of 31st August 2026):

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

Note: Because the qualifying age is based on 31st August 2026, some entrants may have birthdays that would otherwise place them in a different age group at the actual date of the competition. For example, a young person who is 17 on 31st August but turns 18 on 3rd September 2026 is still eligible to enter as a Senior or a 10-year-old on 31st August 2026 with their birthday on 1st September 2026 is still eligible to enter the Junior category. **Entrants must include their age on the entry form.**

How to enter

To enter a local heat, contact your local Rotary club. You can find one using the club finder at the top left-hand corner of the homepage of the Rotary GB&I website 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.

Entrants should submit their entry through their group or organisation or individually. A completed entry form and a digital copy of the written piece must be submitted to the relevant stage organiser by the specified deadline.

Important: Entrants may participate in a competition organised by a Rotary club outside their geographical area but may enter only one local heat.

[The Three Stages of the Competition](#)

Please note: some stages may involve more than one round to select those progressing to the next stage.

Local Heats

These are organised by local Rotary clubs, each of which sets its own deadline for entries. This deadline must allow enough time for winning entries from the Local Heat/s to be submitted, along with the correctly completed entry form, to the Rotary district for the District Final.

Entries received after the deadline set for the Local Heat/s in your area will not be accepted.

District Finals

The winning entries from the Local Heats in each age group are entered into the Rotary district final and must be accompanied by the correctly completed entry form. Each District sets its own deadline to ensure sufficient time for district winners to be submitted electronically for the National Final.

Local Heat/s winners submitted after the District deadline will not be accepted.

National Final

The winning entry for each age group at the District level is entered into the National Final which is organised by Rotary GB&I. Entries must be submitted electronically to cds@rotarygbi.org by the deadline of 30th April 2027, and each must be accompanied by a correctly completed entry form.

District winners submitted after the National Final deadline will not be accepted.

Competition Guidelines

Task

To produce a handwritten or typed story in prose or poem entitled '**Friendship**'. The written entry could be fiction or non-fiction, as long as the piece relates to the theme, and all entries must be legible.

Please note:

- Prose entries should be up to a maximum 550 words
- Poetry entries should be up to a maximum of 40 lines

And entries that exceed these maximum numbers will be disqualified.

- No pictures and/or drawings are to be part of the entry.

Originality, Use of Artificial Intelligence, Plagiarism or Close Copying

Entries must be entirely the competitor's own original work and must match the theme of the competition. Plagiarised, copied, traced, close-copied, or AI-generated work is not permitted in any Rotary Youth Competition.

It is important that we protect the work of creative individuals. While we are all inspired by the work of others, competitors must not use generative artificial intelligence (AI), or any app, tool or platform that creates, rewrites, edits, enhances or generates any part of the submission. The entry must be created solely by the competitor.

For the purposes of these competitions, "close copying" means that, to a reasonable person, the entry appears remarkably similar in significant respects to work created elsewhere.

Rotary reserves the right to investigate any entry where plagiarism, close copying or use of AI is suspected, and to disqualify any entry found to be in breach of this rule.

Judges

The judges will be people with appropriate skills appointed by the organisers for the Local Heats and District Finals accordingly.

At the National level the judges will be appointed by Rotary GB&I and will not be Rotarians.

Judging Criteria

Judges will consider:

- imagination relative to the subject
- the ability to engage interest
- the ability to be consistent in the power of argument
- relevance to the theme.

The judges will not enter any discussion or correspondence regarding their decision; the decision of the judges will be final and not subject to any appeal.

Recognition

At all stages of the competition, competitors will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Rotary Youth Competitions and other opportunities for young people

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

- other Rotary Youth Competitions: Artist, Chef, Environmentalist, Musician, Photographer, Youth Speaks and Youth Speaks A Debate
- and
- Rotary Young Citizen Awards, Rotary Young Citizen Environmentalist Award, Rotary Young Citizen Peacemaker Award and Rotary Young Citizen Sporting Hero Award

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](#)