



## Guidelines for Volunteers and Organisations

Each year, young people across Northern Ireland give thousands of hours of their time to complete unpaid voluntary work that **enriches local communities, the lives of others... and their own!** The Volunteer Now Youth Impact Awards recognise the amazing endeavours of these young people and the value they add to the organisations they support.

### Why recognition matters

Although volunteers don't seek reward and recognition, acknowledging and celebrating their efforts is crucial.

Not only can recognition **motivate** young volunteers to keep volunteering, it can also **inspire others** to volunteer. These awards also act as a valuable **record of personal achievement** for a young person in terms of both employability and educational opportunities. For organisations, recognising the work of young volunteers helps them feel valued by you - and encourage them to keep giving their time to support your cause.

### How the awards work

Volunteer Now believes that **every hour spent volunteering counts**. The Impact Awards recognise the hours that a young person volunteers, starting with a 10-hour award and building to 50, 100, 200, 300 and so on, with a new award issued every 100 hours. There is no limit as to how many awards a person can achieve.

We are currently in the process of updating our website so that hours can be recorded there. Meantime, if you use the Be Collective platform, simply send the details of your volunteering to [youth@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:youth@volunteernow.co.uk)

A certificate and digital badge is provided to the young person when they reach each milestone so they can share this with their friends, families, employers and community.

### How we work with youth-involving organisations

Volunteer Now supports youth-involving organisations in several ways, including:

- **Advertising** youth volunteer roles on [www.volunteernow.co.uk](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk) & our Be Collective volunteer platform
- Delivering volunteer **information sessions**
- Offering support and advice on the **recruitment and retention** of young volunteers
- Providing digital **certificates and badges** for the volunteer and organisation to use
- Hosting **recognition events** in Northern Ireland at key times in the calendar

### How your organisation can help

To help maximise the opportunity represented by the Volunteer Now Impact Awards, we ask our organisation partners to agree to:

- Offer meaningful opportunities to young volunteers
- Best utilise the skills and expertise of young volunteers and provide them with an encouraging and supportive experience
- Report the number and hours of volunteering undertaken by young people
- Celebrate the achievements of young volunteers when they reach their milestone

***Recognising young volunteers is a win-win and can help cement a good habit that lasts a lifetime!***