



UN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING AWARDS 2026

GROWING VOLUNTEERING AND
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
ACROSS NORTHERN IRELAND

TIPS FOR NOMINATING

- Don't assume that the assessment panel members know the organisation or individual. Panel members can only assess the nomination based on the information that is provided on your nomination form therefore provide as much information as you can.
- Talk to the volunteer you are thinking of nominating about their voluntary work or to others that know about their volunteering - It can be surprising to discover what other areas of voluntary work people are involved in. If you don't want the person to know that you are thinking of nominating them, simply have a conversation with them over a cup of tea/coffee to find out what else they do. You may find out that they have more volunteering experience than you realised.
- Tell the story in simple terms – This will give the assessment panel members a better sense of what the volunteer/organisation does. Write your nomination to clearly show how the voluntary work undertaken by the person/organisation you are nominating is making a difference in the local community or to the cause they are supporting. Keep it simple without overuse of jargon so that the nomination becomes real for the assessment panel members.
- Don't forget the small things that make a real difference - Everyone has something to offer volunteering and every role is valued. You are welcome to share experiences, stories or quotes from others to enhance your nomination.
- Remember that you can nominate within all of the categories so think clearly about the volunteers or the organisation that you are involved with. Talk to others within the organisation to ensure that there are no duplicate nominations. One good nomination is better than lots of less detailed nominations.

We discourage the use of AI-generated content in your nomination form. The assessment panel will be looking for clear, specific examples written in your own words, as this helps ensure the submission reflects genuine experiences and achievements