

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS NOMINATION GUIDELINES

2026 Nomination Categories, Questions and Example Prompts

There are eight categories available for nomination. Please nominate each individual or team in **one category only**. You may submit nominations for more than one person or team.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD - HAMILTON

This award celebrates a volunteer who gives their time, energy, and passion to the people around them – specifically within Hamilton. It recognises someone who has made a meaningful impact by supporting and uplifting others, showing genuine care for individuals, groups, and communities they serve. The Hamilton area is based on the City Council boundaries.

1. How has the nominee contributed through volunteering within Hamilton, and what impact have they had locally? (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- Who or what do they support through their volunteering?
- How have they made a difference to people or communities in Hamilton?
- Can you share a specific example?

2. In your own words, tell us why this person deserves recognition. (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What makes their contribution meaningful or inspiring?
- How do they demonstrate care, commitment, or community spirit?

3. If you had to sum up their impact in one sentence, what would you say?

(e.g. "Without them, this programme wouldn't run" or "They are the first to arrive and the last to leave.")

INDIVIDUAL AWARD - REGIONAL

This award recognises a volunteer who has made a significant difference in the Waikato region (excluding Hamilton). It celebrates those who go above and beyond to support their communities. In many of our regional towns, volunteering is the heartbeat of the community. Volunteers give countless hours to help others, and we want to honour their dedication and the invaluable contributions they make to strengthening and uplifting their local areas.

1. How has the nominee contributed through volunteering in their regional community, and what difference has this made? (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What community or town do they support?
- How do they go above and beyond for their local area?
- Who benefits from their efforts?

2. In your own words, tell us why this person deserves recognition. (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- Why are they important to their community?
- What impact do they have beyond their formal role?

3. If you had to sum up their impact in one sentence, what would you say?

(e.g. "Without them, this programme wouldn't run" or "They are the first to arrive and the last to leave.")

TEAM AWARD

This award recognises the collective effort of a volunteer team and their impact on the communities they serve. It celebrates the commitment, collaboration, and positive outcomes that result from the teamwork and joint efforts of volunteers working towards a common goal. This award celebrates the commitment, collaboration, and positive outcomes that result from the teamwork and joint efforts of volunteers working towards a common goal.

1. What is the team's purpose, and how do they achieve it? (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- How do team members work together?
- What has the team achieved as a group?
- Who or what has benefited from their efforts?

2. In your own words, tell us why this team deserves recognition. (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What makes this team unique or inspiring?
- How do they demonstrate collaboration and shared commitment?

3. If you had to sum up their impact in one sentence, what would you say?

(e.g. "Without them, this programme wouldn't run" or "They are the first to arrive and the last to leave.")

LONG SERVICE AWARD

This award honours a volunteer who has made a significant and lasting contribution to their community over a lifetime. With at least 15 years of volunteer work in the Waikato region, this individual has dedicated their time, skills and passion to one or more organisations, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of those around them and the causes they support.

1. How has the nominee contributed through their volunteering over time, and what impact has this had on people or the community? (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- How long have they been volunteering, and in what roles?
- How has their contribution evolved over time?
- What lasting difference have they made?

2. In your own words, tell us why this person deserves recognition. (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- Why is their contribution special or significant?
- What would be lost without their ongoing involvement?

3. If you had to sum up their impact in one sentence, what would you say?

(e.g. “Without them, this programme wouldn’t run” or “They are the first to arrive and the last to leave.”)

YOUTH AWARD

Young people are the future of the Waikato – and they bring so much to our communities. This award celebrates someone aged 24yr or under who has shown a genuine commitment to volunteering. Whether they've given their time, shared innovative ideas, or used their skills to make a difference, this award is all about recognising their impact and the passion they bring to helping others.

1. How has this young person stepped up, got involved or made an impact? (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What roles or activities have they been involved in?
- How have they shown initiative, leadership, or reliability?
- How have their actions made a difference to others in their community?

2. In your own words, tell us why this young person deserves recognition. (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What potential or promise do you see in them?
- How do they inspire others their age or in the wider community?

3. If you had to sum up their impact in one sentence, what would you say?

(e.g. “Without them, this programme wouldn’t run” or “They are the first to arrive and the last to leave.”)

EVENT AWARD

This award recognises an individual who made a significant contribution to a successful event in 2025 within the Waikato region. Whether through offering their time or skills to help organise or support the

seamless delivery of an event, their dedication underscores the essential role volunteers play in bringing events to life and creating memorable experiences for all involved.

1. What was the nominee's role in the event, and how did their contribution help make it a success? (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What were they responsible for on the day or in the lead-up?
- How did they support organisers, participants, or attendees?
- Did they step in, problem-solve, or go above and beyond in any way?

2. In your own words, tell us why this person deserves recognition. (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What stood out about their attitude, commitment, or impact?
- How did they embody the spirit of volunteering?

3. If you had to sum up their impact in one sentence, what would you say?

(e.g. "Without them, this programme wouldn't run" or "They are the first to arrive and the last to leave.")

GOVERNANCE AWARD

Good governance is the backbone of any organisation. Often, governing boards are made up of volunteers who bring sound, objective decision-making to the table. This award recognises and celebrates the leadership, commitment, and hard work of someone who volunteers in a governance role – helping to guide and grow their organisation.

1. How has the nominee contributed in their governance role, and what positive difference has their leadership or decision-making made? (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What responsibilities do they hold at a governance level?
- How have they supported strategy, direction, or sustainability?
- Can you share an example of their influence or guidance?

2. In your own words, tell us why this person deserves recognition. (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What sets them apart as a governance volunteer?
- How have they strengthened the organisation?

3. If you had to sum up their impact in one sentence, what would you say?

(e.g. "Without them, this programme wouldn't run" or "They are the first to arrive and the last to leave.")

UNSUNG HERO AWARD

This award recognises a behind-the-scenes volunteer whose efforts might go unnoticed but are truly invaluable. They're the quiet achievers – the ones who step up without seeking recognition, consistently giving their time, energy, and skills to support others. Whether it's organising logistics, lending a hand with the less glamorous tasks, or being the reliable person everyone can count on, this award celebrates the dedication and heart of those who make a big impact from the background.

1. What behind-the-scenes contributions does the nominee make, and why are these important to the organisation or community? (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- What tasks do they quietly take responsibility for?
- How do they support others or keep things running smoothly?
- Why are these contributions essential?

2. In your own words, tell us why this person deserves recognition. (Min 50 words - Max 200 words)

Example prompts:

- Why might their contribution often go unnoticed?
- What would be missed if they weren't there?

3. If you had to sum up their impact in one sentence, what would you say?

(e.g. "Without them, this programme wouldn't run" or "They are the first to arrive and the last to leave.")