



VOY 2026 – Nomination Guidance Pack

Nominations open: 19 January 2026 • **Close:** 20 April 2026 (23:59)

Finalists announced publicly: week commencing 11 May 2026

We want your local heroes to shine. The tips below explain what to write in each box, the level of detail we're looking for, and how to make your nomination stand out.

Quick tips (before you start)

- **Be specific.** Say *what* they did, *how often/since when*, *who benefited*, and *what changed*.
 - **Add at least one number.** Hours, people helped, sessions run, money raised, items made/fixed—anything countable helps.
 - **Include a short quote** if you can (from a beneficiary, partner, or colleague).
 - **Keep it local.** Name places/areas served.
-

How to complete the form (box by box)

1) Your details / Nominee details

- Fill in names, emails and phone numbers you actively use.
- If the nominee is a team/organisation, add a **primary contact** (name + role).

2) Are they aware of the nomination?

- Select **Yes/No**.

3) How long has the person/people been involved in volunteering?

Aim for: 1–2 sentences with dates and pattern of involvement.

Good: “Volunteering since 2010; weekly commitment, rising to 10–12 hrs/week during events.”

Even better: “Started in May 2019; now 3 sessions/week term-time; stepped up to 200+ hours in 2025.”

4) How often do they volunteer?

Aim for: frequency + rough hours + any seasonal peaks.

Good: “Every Wednesday and Saturday (~6 hrs/week), plus extra days before

competitions/fundraisers.”

Optional: Mention continuity (“no breaks over winter”) if relevant.

5) Can you describe what they do?

Aim for: 150–250 words. Think P-I-E: *Problem/need* → *Intervention/role* → *Effect/outcomes*.

- **Problem/need:** What gap did they address?
- **Intervention:** Exactly what they do (activities, responsibilities, leadership, training, logistics, admin).
- **Effect:** Immediate outcomes (sessions run, people upskilled, projects delivered).

Stronger answer structure (copy the pattern):

“They lead [activity], coordinate [people/partners], deliver [sessions/services], handle [logistics/admin], and mentor/train [volunteers/staff]. This ensures [who] can [benefit] safely and regularly.”

6) How does this benefit the organisation/community?

Aim for: 120–200 words focused on results.

- Who benefits (age groups, areas, specific communities)?
- What changes (confidence, skills, health & wellbeing, access, inclusion)?
- Add **one number** (e.g., attendees, sessions, items, savings, waiting list reduction).
- Add **one short quote** (1–2 sentences) if you have permission.

Good:

“Runs 24 sessions/term benefitting ~60 participants across Helensburgh & Lomond. *‘I’ve made friends and feel confident again.’* (participant)”

7) What does the individual/team get out of volunteering?

Aim for: 2–4 sentences. Keep it authentic; outcomes can include skills, belonging, wellbeing, purpose, leadership growth.

Good: “Reports improved mental wellbeing and a sense of purpose; gained safeguarding and first-aid certifications; now mentors new volunteers.”

8) Highlights of their volunteering

Aim for: 3–5 clear highlights, not a long paragraph.

- Awards/qualifications/competition results
- Milestones (e.g., “set up new session in 2025, now at 40+ regulars”)
- Innovations (new systems, partnerships, resources)
- Going the extra mile (covering shifts, travel, fundraising)

Tip: Use mini bullets or short lines for readability.

9) Why do they deserve this award over others?

Aim for: 120–180 words linking their impact to the category’s intent. Avoid “because they’re amazing” without evidence.

Good framework:

“**Scale:** who/where/how many. **Depth:** what changed for people. **Consistency:** over how long.

Leadership: did they train/support others? **Wider value:** partnerships, inclusion, legacy.”

Make it stand out (judges’ checklist)

- **Clarity:** Readers can understand the story in under a minute.
 - **Evidence:** At least one number and one quote.
 - **Timescale:** Start date and frequency/hours are clear.
 - **Fit:** The story clearly matches the chosen category.
 - **Reach & inclusion:** Who benefited and how you removed barriers.
 - **Legacy:** What will last (skills, systems, resources, confidence, networks).
-

Strong vs vague (quick examples)

Vague: “She does loads and is brilliant with everyone.”

Strong: “Since 2022, she runs two weekly sessions (~6 hrs/week), trained 12 new volunteers, and introduced accessible taster days—attendance rose from 18 to 46 regulars.”

Vague: “It’s good for the community.”

Strong: “Delivers monthly outreach to two care homes (24 visits in 2025). *‘It’s the highlight of our week.’* (Activities coordinator)”

Helpful add-ons (optional)

- **Links** to public posts/news items (no private data).
 - **Photos** (1–2) if you have permission to share.
 - **Partner contact** we can verify with, if needed.
-

Entering more than one category

Use the drop down menu at the bottom of the form to enter into multiple categories using the same form. Think about how your nominations fits with the additional categories too.

Access & support

If you need help with the form (language, literacy, disability, connectivity), contact laurenmartin@argylltsi.org.uk or **07377070392**.

Final check before you submit

- Clear **what/why/when/how often**
- **One number + one quote** included
- Place/area named (keep it local)
- Contact details correct
- If entering multiple categories, I've selected these using the dropdown menu