



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of the Queen's coronation. It is the MBE for volunteer groups.

It is an annual award to recognise and reward excellence involving activities carried out by groups in the community.

Any group of 2 or more volunteers can be nominated for the award provided that they can demonstrate that they:

- Provide a service and meet a need for people living in the local community
- Are supported, recognised and respected by the local community and the people who benefit from it
- Are run locally

The majority of the group must be volunteers, more than half of the volunteers must have the right to live in the UK and the group must have been running for three years or more.

If you know a local volunteer group that is really making a difference to your community it may be nominated for this award.

Nomination forms and full guidance can be obtained as indicated below. Groups can be nominated by either beneficiaries of their work, members of the public, representatives of public bodies, or other voluntary groups. Those nominating must not be:

- Involved in running the group
- A partner or relative of any one involved in running it
- A volunteer with the group.

Nominators of a group should establish with the group that it is, in principle, eligible for consideration and is content to be nominated. Then, on the nomination form:

- Provide detailed background information on the group and a testimonial on the group's worth and value to the community, and
- Obtain letters of endorsement from two supporters.

The two supporters of the nomination must not be involved in running the group, or be a partner or relative of any one involved in running it. A volunteer with the group or a beneficiary of its services may act as a supporter, but if they do, the other supporter must be completely independent of the group.

Nominations can be submitted at any time during the year, the closing date for submissions is 30 September annually and the winners are announced on June 2.

The winners receive a certificate signed by the Queen and a domed glass crystal. Representatives from the group may also be invited to attend a royal garden party.

To obtain a nomination form or further details on the award please visit the website www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-voluntary-service.

PRM/Nottinghamshire Lieutenancy, February, 2013