

Top Tips for Successful Awards Nominations



We know that there are amazing things happening in guiding every day.

Awards are a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of volunteers and girls. If you think someone deserves special recognition – for example, a volunteer who has made a real difference through their contribution to guiding, or a young member who has shown special courage or great initiative – please put them forward for an award!

Here are some tips to help you put forward a great awards nomination.

❖ Do your research

Look at the Awards that are available and consider which award would be the most appropriate for the person you are nominating and their circumstances. Read through the criteria and be clear about what is required. If you need help, speak to a commissioner or your County Awards Coordinator or someone on the Girlguiding Cymru Awards Committee.

Find out about the person you are nominating – your local commissioner can provide you with a list and dates of the guiding roles that person has undertaken.

❖ Getting started

One person needs to take the lead, but it is helpful to involve others and pull together a small group who have known the nominee for some time. If your County Commissioner is not part of your group, make sure they know and will support the nomination.

Consider the nominee and the roles they have had – who will you ask to write the letters of support? Letters can be in English or Welsh and as well as letters, you can include video or voice submissions in your application. You are more likely to get a response if you speak to those you ask and explain the process. Let them know when you want a response.

Think about different people who can show the different aspects of the nominee's guiding life. Who might have been personally affected or inspired by the nominee? Ask each contributor to focus on only one aspect of their interaction with the nominee. Girl voice is important too, so get contributions from young members – you could ask a group of Brownies or Guides to write comments on a postcard and put several into a letter, or get them to do a short video.

Find out when you need to submit the application (when the Awards Committee is meeting) and give those writing letters a timescale for their response.

Remember, it is important that neither the leader who you hope will receive an award, nor their family, know that the nomination is being made.

❖ Capture attention

Ask yourself what makes this person stand out from other leaders. What makes them shine? Be specific about what they have done and what they have achieved. Focus on the **impact** of their contribution on guiding and their impact/influence on girls and adult volunteers. Give practical examples of their service, how innovative they've been etc. to demonstrate what they have achieved, as well as examples of their character, personality, enthusiasm and qualities.

Remember, the people considering the application will not know the person, locations or events and can only judge on what they read, so be specific and clear and show your passion.

❖ Take action

This is the BIG one – instead of just thinking about it, start the application process now. There's a wide range of awards, so consider what fits the person best and make it happen. Imagine that huge smile when they get their Award – there's no better Thank you than that!

Get ready to party!

If you need advice or help with an Awards application, contact your County Awards Coordinator or the Girlguiding Cymru Awards Committee.

For more information visit <https://girlguidingcymru.org.uk/awards>