# **A picture containing chart Description automatically generatedRoscommon Volunteer Awards 2021**

## **Guidelines for Nominating a Volunteer**

## Overview

Roscommon Volunteer Awards is held in recognition of the volunteers and voluntary groups that generously give their time and energy in making Roscommon a vibrant and thriving county. There are seven award categories in this year’s Roscommon Volunteer Awards. Four of these categories are for exceptional volunteers. The remaining three categories are awards that will go to outstanding organisations. The information provided below are for individuals interested in nominating a volunteer.

A volunteer may be nominated under the following four categories:

1. Active Aging Volunteer of the Year
2. Arts and Culture Champion of the Year
3. Environmental Sustainability Champion of the Year
4. Volunteer of the Year

## Category Details

**Active Aging Volunteer of the Year**: This category celebrates aging and the benefits of staying active and being connected to one’s community. A volunteer can be nominated under this category if they are aged 60+ and volunteer in any community organisation. The category showcases the capabilities of older adults who may act as role models or mentors, who share their knowledge and wisdom, and who inspire others through their personal experiences.

**Arts and Culture Champion of the Year**: This category celebrates the dedicated volunteers who make Roscommon’s festivals and public events possible and help to advance the arts. Volunteers in this category contribute to making Roscommon County a vibrant and flourishing place to live. A volunteer can be nominated if they participate at events, encourage artistic expression, or have made a contribution that helps demonstrate the creativity of Roscommoners.

**Environmental Sustainability Champion of the Year**: This category celebrates the initiatives undertaken by a volunteer who may have increased awareness of better environmental practices, advocated for the use of more eco-friendly resources, or inspired others to act with greater concern for the environment. A volunteer can be nominated under this category if they have demonstrated their commitment to caring for their local environment. The individual may have engaged in activities that promote sustainability and the environmental wellbeing of a habitat, ecosystem, town or village.

**Volunteer of the Year**: This category celebrates the overall achievements of a volunteer. It is given to a person that stands out and clearly demonstrates their commitment to a cause despite difficult times and obstacles encountered. Volunteers are the unseen backbone of our towns and villages and the nominee for this category will have shown drive, determination and dedication to their cause. If you feel there is a person that should be recognised for their contributions, but they don’t quite fit into the other award categories, then this award may be for them.



## Rules for Nominating a Volunteer

1. Volunteers can be nominated by a club or another individual.
2. Volunteers cannot nominate themselves.
3. The volunteer does not need to be a resident of Roscommon; however, the *place* of volunteering must be in Roscommon.
4. Volunteers can be nominated for multiple categories (e.g., Volunteer of the Year *and* Arts and Culture Champion of the Year).
5. An individual can make a submission for multiple award categories.
6. Any individual who may be been previously nominated in the past may be nominated again this year.
7. Multiple people can nominate an individual for a category (i.e., several individuals can nominate Joe Bloggs for a category).
8. Only nominations that have been received in full will be considered.
9. Only nominations that have been received before the closing date will be considered.
10. A volunteer does not need to be registered on I-VOL (the national volunteering database) to be nominated for a category.
11. Nominee involvement may be subject to verification.

## Nomination Period

The nomination period is open from 1 October – 30 October. All entries must be submitted before 5 p.m. on the closing date. Nominations submitted after this time will not be considered.

## About the Nomination Form

To nominate a volunteer for any of the above categories, one must complete a volunteer nomination form by clicking on [**this link**](https://forms.office.com/r/Pbez6QSr5S) or by visiting the Roscommon Volunteer Centre website ([**https://volunteerroscommon.ie**).](https://volunteerroscommon.ie).)

Those submitting nominations are asked on the form to describe the contributions of the volunteer under the following three headings:

* Dedication: Describe how this person’s dedication to the organisation or cause has been demonstrated during the time they’ve volunteered. Articulate how this volunteer freely gives of their time, skills, energy or creativity to help keep the show on the road.
* Energy/Spirt: Describe how has this person’s attitude, demeanour and general outlook has positively influenced the staff and/or service users of the organisation.
* Innovation and/or Contribution: Describe how the volunteer has brought unique ideas and a fresh perspective that have supported the development of the organisation.

## Notes on a Quality Submission

The more concreate examples you can give of the volunteer’s contributions, the higher they’re likely to be scored by the judging panel. E.g., ‘Joe Bloggs was great’ will not score as well as ‘Joe Bloggs showed up every day, even in the cold wet season, to ensure meals were prepared and delivered to rurally located clients, many of whom tend to be retirees living far from shops’.

## What happens after a nomination is submitted?

Staff at RVC will remove any identifier of the volunteer (name, age, location, gender, etc.) before passing this information along to the judging panel. This will ensure that the judges have an unbiased view of the information they’re reading.

A category and code number will be assigned to each application giving it a unique identifier. The judge will only see the volunteer’s coded ID (e.g., VoY001).

Judges will first score the nominations independently. They will then be invited to meet with the other judges in that category and come to a consensus on the winner. The judges’ referral will go to Roscommon Volunteer Centre who will match up the referred volunteer’s code to the actual identity of the volunteer. The volunteer winner of the category will be announced at the award ceremony.

## Queries

If you have any questions about the eligibility of a potential nominee, please contact Shannette at [manager@volunteerroscommon.ie](mailto:manager@volunteerroscommon.ie) or at 089-219-9930.