

City of Rockingham Volunteer Recognition Awards

Eligibility Criteria 2026



Volunteer Recognition Awards

The Volunteer Recognition Awards is held annually during National Volunteer Week in May. The event aims to recognise and celebrate dedicated volunteers who give their time, passion and expertise to our community. The City of Rockingham recognises and appreciates the commitment and hard work that our volunteers contribute to making our community stronger.

Volunteers are the heart of our community and we want to recognise them and let them know we truly appreciate them. The 2026 Volunteer Recognition Awards will be held on **Wednesday 13 May 2026** at the Gary Holland Community Centre, 19 Kent Street, Rockingham.

Nomination Process and categories

All Rockingham community groups, not-for-profit organisations, sporting clubs, and any other organisations working with volunteers are invited to recognise their volunteers by nominating them for the 2026 Volunteer Recognition Awards in one (or more) of the below categories.

Individuals:

- ▶ **Act Belong Commit**
This category applies to an individual who has made an outstanding commitment to the principles of the [Act Belong Commit](#) message through their volunteering efforts.
- ▶ **People Who Make a Difference**
This category applies to an individual who has made an exceptional impact, by going above and beyond their duties and making a significant difference in their local community by assisting others.
- ▶ **Young Volunteer of the Year**
Presented in celebration of an individual under 30 years old who has made an outstanding voluntary commitment, and who through their volunteering has positively impacted the lives of others.
- ▶ **Volunteer of the Year**
This category is presented to recognise an individual who has been an outstanding volunteer and made significant contribution to a community group, not-for-profit organisation, sporting club or any other organisation working with volunteers.
- ▶ **Senior Volunteer of the Year**
Presented in celebration of an individual 60+ years of age who has had a significant positive impact on the community or organisation. This category will promote the awareness of older people who contribute to the growth of community capacity.

Organisation/Group:

- ▶ **Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year**
Presented in celebration of a volunteer involving community organisation that provides innovative leadership and, through good practice in volunteering, brings about positive and enduring change to their community.

Nominations need to be submitted to the City by **12pm on Monday 9 March 2026**.

Nomination forms can be submitted in a variety of ways, including email, in person, online form and by mail please see the end of this package for contact details.

Eligibility Criteria

Please ensure you read through the eligibility criteria carefully prior to submitting this form:

- ▶ Nominees must be a City of Rockingham resident or have lived in the City of Rockingham within the past 24 months, have parents residing in the City of Rockingham (for volunteers under 18 years of age only), or be linked to a City of Rockingham club or other organisation working with volunteers.
- ▶ Nominees must be from a Rockingham not-for-profit community group, sporting club/association or other organisation working with volunteers.
- ▶ If the nominee is under 18 years, permission must be sought from a parent or guardian before submitting a nomination.
- ▶ No City staff members or Councillors may be nominated.
- ▶ Nominees cannot be related to those nominating them.
- ▶ Nominees can be nominated for more than one category, however nominations need to be relevant to each category i.e. same information cannot be used for multiple categories.
- ▶ No state or federal government departments can be nominated (e.g. schools cannot be nominated, however Parent and Citizens' groups can).
- ▶ Incomplete nominations or those submitted after the specified closing date will be ineligible for consideration.

Assessment Process

All submitted nominations will be assessed based on their merit by a judging panel comprising:

- ▶ City of Rockingham Mayor
- ▶ Manager Community Capacity Building
- ▶ Representative of Mentally Healthy WA
- ▶ Representative of Volunteering WA

If a nomination is successful, the nominating organisation/individual will be notified via email, and an invitation will be sent directly to the nominee.

If the nomination is unsuccessful, the nominating organisation/individual will be notified on the outcome of their nomination via email.

All notifications will be completed by **Friday 10 April 2026**.

Not all nominees will be selected to be recognised during the Volunteer Recognition Awards.

The judging panel's decision is final.

Finalists

Up to five finalists for each category will be announced once nominations have been assessed. The City of Rockingham team will contact finalists and share further information about attending the event.

The winner of each category will receive a cash prize.

All finalists are expected to attend the 2026 Volunteer Recognition Awards on **Wednesday 13 May 2026**. All nominees selected as finalists for the awards will need to provide one photograph of the nominee. Photos are to be in JPEG format between 1 - 3MB.

Nominating person/organisation of each finalist will also be invited to attend the event.

Important Dates

- ▶ Nominations close on **Monday 9 March 2026**.
- ▶ Notification of the nomination assessment to be advised by **Friday 10 April 2026**.
- ▶ 2026 Volunteer Recognition Awards will be held on **Wednesday 13 May 2026** at the Gary Holland Community Centre, 19 Kent Street, Rockingham.

Prizes

There is a total prize pool of \$2,800 to be awarded.