# **Celebration of Volunteering Nominations Guidance**

Top tips:

* We can only judge the nomination based on what you write on the form, so ensure you include all relevant information and don’t assume the judging panel knows anything about the volunteer or their volunteering
* Share the story. We want to understand the impact the volunteering is having and the way it’s helping. Sharing examples is a great way to do this.
* The best applications show how the volunteer stands out from the crowd – if they go above and beyond in their volunteering, tell us how!

The judging panel will look for evidence of the following in the application:

* the impact and value of the volunteering
* commitment and dedication – this could be your own personal commitment, including long service, your dedication to working with others, a regular commitment or one-off dedication.
* going above and beyond
* for student nominees, participation in one or more of the RED Awards

How to make your nomination stand out:

1. **Be specific. List specific projects and activities the volunteer has been involved in, providing details on their role**  
   Bad example: She has volunteered at several society events.  
   Good example: She volunteered at the Whitley Community Development Association afternoon tea Christmas party to run the quiz and organise donated gifts for the guests and at the Santa Run to help as a volunteer marshal, ensuring the safety of the runners across the route.
2. **Describe exactly what the volunteer did**

Bad example: He helped at the event.  
Good example: He staffed the registration desk, welcoming guests to the event and answering any questions. He also ensured that refreshments were kept topped up and cleared up at the end of the event.

1. **If possible, provide a measure of their impact. This can include facts and figures, and testimonials from people impacted by the volunteering.**

Bad example: He raised money for Cancer Research during RAG week.

Good example: He raised £1500 for Cancer Research by completing the Three Peaks Challenge, a 25-mile trek with 5,200 feet of climbing.

1. **Describe the impact the volunteering had on others. You could include testimonials from those impacted by the volunteering too.**

Bad example: Team members enjoy being part of the football club.

Good example: Players love their club and their coaches, attrition rates have been very low, and the squad has grown significantly over the years. Friendships are strong, and football is a focus and anchor for boy. One player says: “He has been a great influence on me, he’s taught me the art of football. Also, educated me to win in humility; lose in acceptance and learn from it.”

1. **Describe how the volunteer has gone above and beyond**

Bad example: They pick litter on campus regularly.

Good example: For the past three years they have visited campus five or six times a week, no matter the weather, to pick up litter.

The following examples are nominations that were received last year, and which demonstrate how to successfully write about volunteering activity and impact.

## **Example 1**

Since starting university, she has been involved with various charities, volunteering both on and off campus. She is the current Zoology Course Rep and actively represents our views and addresses our issues to improve student experience. In November, she participated in Tapathon with the Dance Society to raise money for children in need. In December, she volunteered at the WCDA afternoon tea Christmas party and took part in the annual Reading Santa run organised by the Rotary Club of Reading to raise money for charities (ReadiFood and the Mustard Tree). Additionally, she completed the Move for Mind challenge where she committed to doing 31 minutes of exercise for 31 days in January to help raise awareness on the benefits of doing exercise for your mental health. In just about 6 months, she has managed to achieve so many things. Her strong passion for charity work and volunteering is very inspiring and has encouraged me and other students to get more involved with Reading Students’ Union and the local community.

## **Example 2**

For the past ten years, he has run a community choir for free. The abilities of the choir members vary quite a lot but he is skilled at supporting those with less experience and confidence in reading music and singing, often recording and providing separate sound clips in four parts to help us with difficult passages or songs. Behind the scenes, he has spent a lot of time arranging pieces to suit our abilities rather than always providing standard sheet music. As a result, we have been able to perform a mixture of classical and popular pieces at Lakeside Care Home, at the annual Talfourd Avenue music festival, Talfest, and at Tutu's Ethiopian Table cafe in Palmer Park. All in all, he has enlarged and enhanced our knowledge and love of music and has given us a lot of joy and fellowship over the years, as well as helping us to give real pleasure to our audiences who are always impressed at the standard he has helped us achieve.

## **Example 3**

Since 2017, I have been supporting living paintings as a volunteer. I have provided the narration for over 10 books, that will enable blind and partially sighted children and young adults to access amazing topics such as evolution, art through history, construction vehicles and even a workout book by Joe Wicks (where I stood in for the man himself!).

During my time as a University Ambassador I supported numerous events at local schools, this experience ignited my passion for school governance and from 2021-2023, I served as a Local Authority Governor at a primary school in Enfield. During this time, I oversaw the schools resurgence and return to face to face learning, helped support the onboarding of a new head, retained the schools Ofsted 'good' rating and organised a visit from a local Labour MP.

Furthermore, I have been putting the skills I learned as station manager and a presenter on RUSU's Junction11 Radio to good effect as a volunteer radio presenter on Tring Radio, the fastest expanding radio station in the South East. I have hosted on the station across two periods and over 100 hours of broadcast, one from 2020-21 and then from 2023 onwards.