



## Volunteer of the Year

- Junior Helping Hero
- Adult Volunteer



## Pride of Place Junior Helping Hero & Volunteer of The Year Category Information

This award celebrates remarkable individuals who embody the true spirit of giving. The **Helping Hero Award** recognises volunteers aged 17 and under whose compassion, energy, and dedication make a meaningful difference. **The Volunteer of the Year Award** honours outstanding commitment, leadership, and service that inspire others and strengthen the community.

### Helping Hero & Volunteer of the Year Awards – Marking Scheme (Total: 100 Marks)

- Impact & Contribution – 30 Marks
- Commitment & Dedication – 25 Marks
- Leadership & Initiative – 15 Marks
- Compassion & Community Spirit – 15 Marks
- Personal Growth & Inspiration – 15 Marks

This marking scheme ensures fair recognition of both young and adult volunteers by valuing measurable impact, dedication, leadership, compassion, and the ability to inspire others within their communities.

## Terms & Conditions

### Eligibility and Applications

- Each applying group must clearly outline its purpose, highlighting current or recent activities, achievements, and the impact of these activities on the local and wider community. This should include, where relevant, the group's level of local participation and volunteerism.
- The minimum word count specified beside each field must be met. Applicants are encouraged to provide as much relevant information as possible to assist adjudicators in fully understanding the group's work and impact. Forms that do not meet the required word count will be deemed ineligible.
- Each application form must include at least two photographs that represent the group's activities or achievements. Applications without the required photographs will be considered incomplete.
- Incomplete applications will be returned for completion, these must be returned before the closing date. Each application will undergo a desktop adjudication to determine whether an in-person adjudication will take place.
- Late applications will not be accepted. The closing date for receipt of applications is 5 pm on Friday 22nd May 2026

### Conditions and Guidelines

- Groups may apply for two categories plus a Volunteer of the Year nomination or a Junior Helping Hero award. A separate application form must be submitted for each entry.
- Participating groups are expected to be inclusive, participative, and accessible in their structure and operations.
- Only not-for-profit community or voluntary groups are eligible to apply. Commercial organisations and individuals are not eligible.
- Adjudication will take place in June, July, and August 2026, Monday to Friday during business hours.
- Judging dates for selected applications will be arranged at least two weeks in advance, and every effort will be made to accommodate groups with a suitable date and time.
- A group representative must be available to meet with the adjudicator on the judging day. Failure to do so may result in the application being excluded from consideration.
- The contact person and address listed on the application form will be used for all correspondence regarding the application.
- Judging may occur either in person or over the phone. Each entry will be evaluated individually, so multiple meetings may be required.

### Meath County Council and Data Protection

- Meath County Council implements this initiative in line with the public sector equality and human rights duty, seeking projects that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and democracy as outlined in its Equality and Human Rights Values Statement, available at [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie).
- Information provided is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts. If any information supplied is considered sensitive, the applicant should specify the reasons for its sensitivity. Applicants will be consulted prior to any release of such information.
- The 'Applicant Details and Contact Information' section must be completed for correspondence purposes. This personal information will not be shared with third parties. Applications will be retained by Meath County Council for the duration of the programme plus one year.