

Film nominations for Young People Volunteering Award

We're really excited that you're considering submitting a film for this year's awards. Below, you'll find some suggestions we'd like to share and instructions on the best way to get the film to us, in time for the judging panel to review.

Key points to remember:

- We need to receive your film by midnight on 4 June 2018
- The film should be up to 5 minutes in length
- It should be no more than 400mb

We're looking forward to seeing what you can do. However, please bear in mind that we're not judging your filming skills. We want to hear all about your project, so make sure you use the time to tell us about:

- Who you are and who you're nominating. Your nominee(s) will need to appear in the film so please make sure they're happy with this
- What voluntary activity your nominee(s) carries out and what they're aiming to improve – e.g. health and wellbeing, the local environment
- How they've made a difference to the lives of people in the local area and whether they've got people involved and promoted what they are doing
- What makes them special and why you feel they should win a community award

Don't forget, you can nominate yourself or a group you are involved in.

Filming guidance: A film can help bring a nomination alive for the judges. However, we're conscious that it can be a daunting experience. Here are a few ideas that might help:

- A picture is worth a thousand words: Rather than filming someone telling us they are great, show us them being great!
- Show us your enthusiasm: You think the young person or people you want to nominate deserves this award? Then help us understand why you're so impressed by them.
- Story board: Before you pick up your phone or camera, think about what you want to say or show on film. Then write it down.
- Script: Make sure you've considered what you want to say beforehand. Speak clearly and don't forget you can always narrate or voice over the film.
- Time it: Your story board and script might look the right length on paper, but things can take longer than you think. Do a run through before you film.

Filming on a smartphone: As we've said, we're not judging technical ability. Nevertheless, here are a few practical tips that are worth bearing in mind:

- Shoot horizontal, not upright: You don't want your clip to be fighting for space with two black bars on either side of the screen. Keep your smartphone horizontal when you are recording. The film will look much better on the big screen.
- Keep it smooth and steady: Your smartphone is small and light, but it can be held surprisingly steady. Use both hands, rest against something or lock your elbows into your body. Some apps also allow you to remove unwanted 'jiggle'.
- Use classic compositions: Shots that we find striking or leave a lasting impression often make use of composition rules. Google the 'rule of thirds' if you're interested in how the pro's do it.
- Make the light work for you: Don't go too light or too dark. Try and use the light you've got to your advantage. Don't film into the sun and check what you're recording to see if it's showing what you want.
- Mix it up: A film made up of many shorter clips, featuring a variety of people and using different angles often makes a more interesting watch. Filming in short sections can also make editing easier.
- Control the content: You could use interviews to help control the content or draft a script in advance for the people featured to learn.
- Record good audio: Bad sound can ruin a great piece of film. It's worth checking sound levels at each stage to ensure you're getting what you want.
- Know what's possible (and what's not): Before you start filming check you have enough available memory and how much charge you have left. Also, smartphones don't have zoom lenses. Using this function will reduce the quality of the image.

If you'd like further help and advice with producing a film nomination for this award you can contact Becca at North Yorkshire Youth on Becca@nyy.org.uk

Please don't forget the deadline is 4 June 2018 at midnight.

And good luck!