

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

Young Leaders in Service Awards

CHALLENGING YOUTH TO SERVE

MD 105 LIONS CLUB GUIDE



YOUNG LEADERS IN SERVICE AWARDS

Challenging young people to serve with rewards and recognition – investment for the future.

1. Introduction to the Award

The Young Leader in Service Awards recognise young people between the ages of 8 and 18 or their community service. After the date of their first hour of community service they will be eligible to apply for the Award, ***subject to a maximum period covered of 12 months***, as follows:

- 25 – 49 hours = Bronze Seal Award Certificate
- 50 – 99 hours = Silver Seal Award Certificate
- 100 or more hours = Gold Seal Award Certificate
- Over 250 = Platinum Award Certificate

On completion of their chosen period the young leaders will receive a certificate, congratulatory letter from the Lions Clubs of the British Isles Council Chairperson and a Young Leaders in Service pin or cloth badge of their choosing. Where more than one certificate is applied for in any 12-month period, hours will accumulate from the first date in the logbook.

2. Benefits for young people

- Experience the rewards of community service
- Become involved in their community and with local Lions clubs
- Enhancement of C.V.

3. Benefits for Lions Clubs

- Experience the rewards of supporting young people with minimal costs
- Gain publicity from Young Leader in Service Awards activities
- Increase the profile of Lions in your community.

Suggestions for projects

Projects	Suggestions for service activities
Service for the elderly	Performing simple home tasks; running errands; befriending; helping older people with internet skills.
Service for children	Collecting and distributing toys or clothes. Reading stories and helping with homework. Visiting children in hospital. As a Guide - helping with Brownies, Rainbows; as a Scout - helping with Cubs and Beavers, for example attaching achievement badges onto uniforms; as a Cadet - helping at meetings.
Environment	Planting trees, weeding flower beds and litter picking.
Service to the homeless/hungry	Collecting food, clothing and toiletries to donate to a local homeless centre; raising money for a homeless centre for essentials for them to set up home; disaster relief.

Safety training	Helping younger children learn about water safety, fire prevention, traffic awareness and bicycle safety.
Service to parents and family	Caring for a disabled family member. Shopping and cleaning. Entertaining, talking with and motivating. Looking after younger brothers or sisters; childminding.
Education	Helping a child or adult to learn how to read and write, mentoring. Reading to visually impaired and recording stories to listen to.
Public health	Assist with health screening with a local Lions Club. Collect used spectacles and hearing aids for recycling. Create awareness of teenage suicide and substance abuse.
Taking a leaders' role	Cadets; Boys' Brigade; St John Ambulance; Red Cross; your local Church; Youth Club; Community youth group; involvement with a community activity.
Helping the Lions	Fund-raising for local charities, welfare activities or disaster relief. Planning a party for children; organising a treat/special day for older people; working as a member of the Lions team in the activities they have planned.

4. How to get involved and what is available to help clubs promote the award

- a. Gain the commitment of one of your Lions members to take responsibility for this young people's programme.
- b. Request copies from your District Officer or the MD Officer of
 - the club mini guide, 'How the Award Operates'
 - promotional leaflets for distribution to local youth groups and schools
 - logbooks
 - posters

The leaflets can be personalised to your club, with space left for you to insert your club and contact details prior to distribution.

- c. Your club may run this award scheme at any time of the year.
- d. Contact your local schools and youth organisations, such as St John Ambulance, Red Cross, Boys Brigade, Cadets, youth clubs, Scouts, Guides, church groups, sports clubs, young carers, Youth Councils and all youth organisations. A personal pre-arranged visit could be the most effective way of gaining their interest.
- e. Explain how the Young Leaders in Service award works and what benefits it brings. Take all supporting paperwork with you, including promotional materials, registration forms, the School/Youth Organisation Award Certification form and logbooks for recording service activities. Confirm start dates and mention that you will be planning presentation events for successful Young Leaders in Service participants. (You would probably want to run these a number of times each year.)
- f. Keep in contact with the organisation to keep their interest and monitor progress in case of any queries. Confirm that the logbooks/youth organisation data sheet records are being completed with the hours of service.
- g. Once the young person has completed their hours or the 12-month period is finished the young person will complete the electronic Google Form as supplied by the Lions club.

- h. On completion of the Awards prepare a 'press release' and send it to the local newspaper, post on social media, your District Newsletter. Let your District and the MD Officer know.
- i. Plan for the presentation ceremony.

5. The Presentation Ceremony – aims and suggested format

- **To recognise and reward young people for their commitment to community service.**
 - **To raise the profile of your Lions Club and confirm Lions commitment to young people.**
- a. Schools – at a school event at which parents, friends, teachers and governors are present.
 - b. At a local Lions event, with invitations issued to Lions and their partners, local dignitaries like the mayor, MP, local businesses, all the family and friends of the participants and the organisations or individuals who have benefited from the community service.
 - c. At a youth organisation's own event, again so that the maximum number of people can be invited and involved.
 - d. Media – invite the press and/or provide them with a press release explaining what the presentation is all about. Please seek permission with parents/guardians prior to photographs being taken and utilised.

6. Present all the young people with:

- their certificates
- letters from the Lions Clubs of the British Isles Council Chair
- pin or cloth badge.

Promotion at the presentation event: if possible, put up a display stand with information about the work of your Lions Club and the Young Leaders in Service Scheme with local contact details and literature to hand out.

7. Documentation:

Unless the young participant is continuing with YLIS, once the presentation has taken place all documentation containing any personal information should be destroyed.