

Norfolk Youth Award

What is the Norfolk Youth Award?

The Norfolk Youth Award recognises young people's participation, development and the impact they have on their community.

The three core areas of the Norfolk Youth Award:

Personal Development: Developing a personal quality, learning a new skill or discovering a new interest

Working with Others: Working well as a team, bringing good qualities to a group

Making a Difference to Your Community:

Having a positive impact on the local community



Who is it for?

Any young person aged 11-25 years who attends a youth club or group in Norfolk.

The Norfolk Youth Award is open to all clubs, groups and organisations that work with young people. You do not need to be a member of Momentum to run the award.

How does it work?

With the help of a youth worker / volunteer, each young person sets themselves three personal goals (one for each of the core areas) and fills out the first page of the "Log of Volunteering Activity" for each core area. The goals should be a challenge for that young person.

The young person then spends at least five hours working towards each of their personal goals. The core areas can be completed in any order and can be undertaken at the same time or one after another.

After completing the hours required, the young person completes the final page of the "Log of Volunteering Activity", reflecting on what they have enjoyed, what they found difficult, and how they have benefitted from the experience. The youth worker / volunteer adds their comments about how well they have done and the progress they have made and will also ask for and record comments from the rest of the group.

Photocopies of the completed "Logs of Volunteering Activity" should be sent to Momentum (please do not send originals). Once they have been received and validated by Momentum, a certificate is awarded. There is a certificate for each of the core areas, and the full Norfolk Youth Award is attained once all three areas have been completed. After successfully completing the award, young people can opt to have their names listed on the Momentum website.

Important points to remember:

- The youth worker / volunteer completing the "Log of Volunteering Activity" must have witnessed the young person working towards their goal.
- You are recording what they have achieved and the outcome(s) for them.
- Signatures must be completed by both the youth worker / volunteer and young person.





Examples of young people working toward the Core Areas

Personal Development:

Cassie has been attending youth club for some time and is interested in taking on more responsibility and so volunteered to help run the coffee bar for an hour each week. Cassie and her club leader agreed that her goals were to improve her self-confidence and become more responsible. For Cassie this was challenging, as she had not taken on this level of responsibility before. After five weeks of volunteering, she can gain her Personal Development award.

Working with Others:

Marcus took part in a media project at his youth centre. The project ran for two hours a week over five weeks. He had to work with a group of other young people to make and edit a short film. He had not worked with others very much before and knew it would be challenging as he struggles to make relationships with other young people. He worked really well with others and helped those who were less confident with IT. His goal was to make new friends.

Making a Difference to Your Community:

Ruby is involved in an on-going community youth project. There have been problems in the local area with anti-social behaviour. Ruby's youth group agreed that it would make a difference if the local park could be tidied of litter. Ruby's goal was to help organise a litter-pick – getting other young people involved and finding out what they needed in place to do it safely. This was a challenge for Ruby as she has never helped to organise an event before.

Questions and Answers

How do I know if the young person has done enough?

The rule of thumb is whether the youth worker / volunteer believes that the young person has made the appropriate effort to reach their goal.

How long do young people have to do the Norfolk Youth Award?

There is no strict time limit to complete each core area, but we would suggest that a core area should be achieved within four months so that the personal goal(s) remains relevant by the end of the challenge. Once a young person has started the process it would be good to encourage them to complete all the core areas so that they can achieve the Norfolk Youth Award, but there is no time frame for this.

What other awards / opportunities are there?

For further and more challenging awards/opportunities that recognise young people's progression and volunteering you could consider:

- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- National Citizen Service
- Diana Awards
- vInspired Award

The Norfolk Youth Award was originally set up by Norfolk County Council's Youth Service to celebrate young people's achievements.

