

# Media Release

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Tuesday May 14, 2024

## Time to nominate your local volunteers for top NSW Award

It's now time to say thanks to the local volunteers who give countless hours of their time to help others across the State, by nominating them for the 2024 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards.

The awards are an annual program run by The Centre for Volunteering to recognise the outstanding work of volunteers in every region across NSW.

More than 133,000 volunteers from more than 500 community based organisations were recognised as part of the 2023 awards, making it one of the largest celebrations of volunteering across the country.

The Centre for Volunteering CEO, Gemma Rygate, urged people from across NSW to nominate their neighbours, colleagues or family members for an award in 2024.

"It's your local volunteers who turn up day every day across the community to help run events, deliver vital social services, and provide lifesaving help during incidents and disasters," Ms Rygate said.

"They help build strong social connections, and safe and healthy communities in every corner of the state. Nominating your local volunteer for these awards sends a message that their contribution is highly valued.

"Volunteer managers tells us that the awards are an excellent way to retain volunteers – so they also help to keep people volunteering."

Nominations for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards can be made across eight separate categories, with recipients recognised at one of 25 regional ceremonies. They culminate in the announcement of the NSW Volunteer of the Year in December.

The award categories are:

- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Adult Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Team of the Year
- Employee Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Leader of the Year
- Club Volunteer of the Year
- Not for Profit Voluntary Governance Award

The 2024 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards are supported by principal partners the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and ClubsNSW, which represents the state's 1,100 not-for-profit clubs.

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#### Principal partners



**Your local club**  


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#### Award supporters



NSW Minister with Responsibility for Volunteering Jodie Harrison said volunteers are the heroes of our communities.

“The annual NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards recognise volunteers from communities across the state for their enormous contribution – whether it is deploying to an emergency situation, on the sports field or in a local foodbank,” Ms Harrison said.

“Each and every one of you play a vital role in making NSW the best state to live in.

“I encourage everyone to nominate a volunteer in your community for the awards, as a way to say thanks and let them know they are appreciated.”

ClubsNSW CEO Rebecca Riant said the awards are a wonderful recognition of the valuable contribution that volunteers make across the state.

“Volunteers are the backbone of the NSW club industry, so we know first-hand the key role they play in supporting their local communities,” said Ms Riant.

“We’re thrilled that this is reflected in the special Club Volunteer of the Year Award category, and I look forward to seeing who takes out this year’s gong.”

Nominations are open until Friday 14 June 2024 at [www.volunteering.com.au/awards](http://www.volunteering.com.au/awards)

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**About the Centre for Volunteering**

The Centre for Volunteering is the peak body in NSW which promotes and supports volunteering and community participation. It provides leadership on volunteering issues in NSW and connects people and organisations to enrich the community through advocacy, volunteer referral, volunteer recognition, training, resource development, as well as information and educational services.

The Centre is a not for profit organisation with 50 years of history. It includes Volunteering NSW, a volunteer referral service, and the National School of Volunteer Management, its RTO

**Principal partners**



**Award supporters**



## 2024 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards

The NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards are in their 18<sup>th</sup> year and have grown to become one of the largest celebrations of volunteering across Australia.

They are an annual program run by **The Centre for Volunteering** to recognise the outstanding work of volunteers and Leaders of Volunteers in every region across NSW.

More than 130,000 nominees were recognised during last year's awards at 25 regional ceremonies across every corner of the state, culminating in the State Finals at a Gala Ceremony held in Sydney in December, coinciding with International Volunteer Day.

Nominating your local volunteers is an excellent way to celebrate and recognise volunteers as part of 2024 National Volunteer Week starting on Monday May 20.

Individuals or teams can be nominated in one of eight award categories.

- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Adult Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Team of the Year
- Employee Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Leader of the Year
- Club Volunteer of the Year
- Not for Profit Voluntary Governance Award

Regional finalists are invited to the State Ceremony where winners are selected across each category and the NSW Volunteer of Year is announced.

The NSW Government and ClubsNSW are the principal partners for the awards. This year's regional and state ceremonies are being held from early August until October.

Nominations are open until 5pm on Friday 14 June 2024 at [www.volunteering.com.au/awards](http://www.volunteering.com.au/awards)

### Principal partners



### Award supporters

