



Young Equestrian Leaders Award

01/04/2026

yela



**YOUNG EQUESTRIAN
LEADERS AWARD**



BRONZE



SILVER



GOLD

Introduction

The Young Equestrian Leaders Award (YELA) is a scheme for young people aged between 13 and 25 who want to volunteer within the equestrian industry.

There are progressive levels to work through: **Bronze, Silver and Gold.**

The scheme not only recognises the time and effort spent volunteering, but also facilitates young people to gain a range of skills and experiences, setting them up to become leaders of the future.

Embarking on the Young Equestrian Leaders Award scheme is a fantastic way of using volunteering for personal development. The experiences will enable individuals to gain essential life skills such as communication, problem solving, organising, team working and self-management.

Participants will also gain invaluable experience of the specific area they are volunteering in, and the roles and skills involved. These skills can include working with young people, event organising, budgeting, fundraising, scoring, and stewarding.

Completing the award shows dedication and can be used to enhance CV's, university and job applications. Volunteering can help build confidence through meeting and working with new people.

Registration & Submission



- Registration is via The Pony Club Website:

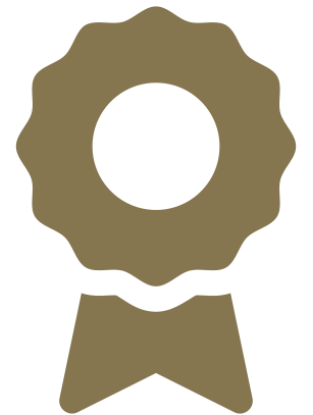
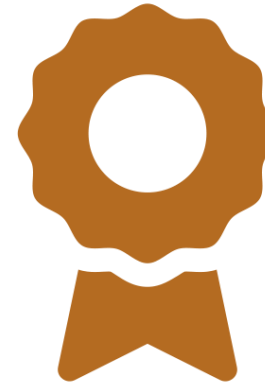
[Young Equestrian Leaders Award The Pony Club \(pcuk.org\)](https://www.pcuk.org)

- Candidates must be between the ages of 13 and 25 years
- Bronze Award - Current Pony Club Members can access the Bronze Award for free as a benefit of their membership. For non-Pony Club Members there is a one-off registration fee is £15.00
- Silver Award - Completion of the Bronze Award and a one-off registration fee of £20.00
- Gold Award - Completion of Silver Award and a one-off registration fee of £25.00
- Once complete, Award submission can be made to yela@pcuk.org for assessment
- Current Pony Club members should add their Membership number on their application and submission

Entry Requirements



- **Bronze Award** - Organise Volunteering opportunities linked to 1 of the British Equestrian Member Bodies
- **Silver Award** - Organise Volunteering opportunities and completion of the Bronze Award
- **Gold Award** - Organise Volunteering opportunities linked to 3 of the British Equestrian Member Bodies and completion of the Silver Award



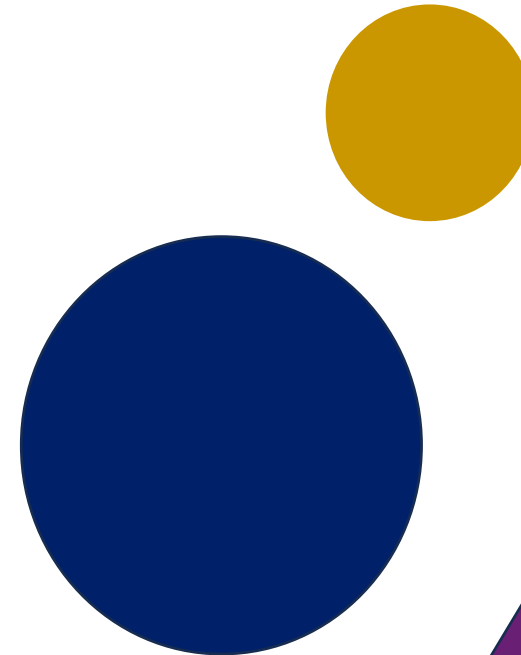
British Equestrian Member Bodies



Syllabus – Bronze Award



- Complete 20 hours of volunteering with 1 of the British Equestrian Member Bodies
- Volunteering to be completed over a minimum of 8 weeks
- Volunteering to be signed off by an appropriate supervisor
- Complete the questions in the logbook



Syllabus – Silver Award

- Complete 40 hours of volunteering with a British Equestrian Member Body
- Volunteering to be completed over a minimum of 16 weeks
- Complete the questions in the logbook
- Volunteering to be signed off by an appropriate supervisor

Complete one of the following:

- a) A minimum of 5 hours of volunteering to be completed with a 2nd British Equestrian Member Body
- b) Volunteer at a National, Area or Regional event for a British Equestrian Member Body
- c) Organise an event through the primary British Equestrian Member Body
- d) Organise a one hour volunteer training session for a minimum of 6 participants

Syllabus – Gold Award



- Complete 60 hours of volunteering with 3 different British Equestrian Member Bodies
- Volunteering to be completed over a minimum of 32 weeks
- A minimum of 5 hours of volunteering to be completed with each British Equestrian Member Body
- Volunteering to be signed off by an appropriate supervisor
- Complete the questions in the logbook
- Plan and deliver a project which is of benefit to one of the British Equestrian Member Bodies the candidate is volunteering with

Project and Planning For Silver & Gold Award (options c & d)



The project should be a substantial part of the portfolio.

Plan and deliver a project which is of benefit to one of the British Equestrian Member Bodies. This can be in the format of a folder, PowerPoint presentation, video or blog.

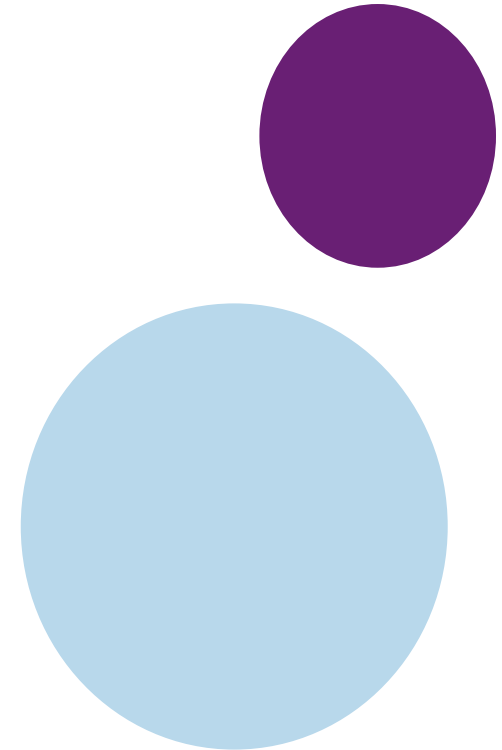
- Show planning and preparation for the activity or event
- Provide a detailed report of the activity or event including photographs
- Provide a clear conclusion
- Give a summary and evaluation of the project and comment on what went well and where there is potential for improvement

Commitment of Time



It is important that:

- Volunteers gain experience of a wide variety of roles across a number of different locations and venues
- Volunteers have the opportunity to grow in confidence and personally develop, building their capability and enabling them to trust their own judgement
- Supervisors and organisers must follow the rules for employment for young people to help ensure volunteers are not expected to work excessive hours or in places that are not safe



Volunteering Hours & Age Restrictions

TERM TIME	13 – 14 Years Old	15 – 16 Years Old
Monday – Friday	2 hours	2 hours
Saturday	5 hours	8 hours
Sunday	2 hours	2 hours
Maximum Hours Per Week	12 hours	12 hours

HOLIDAY TIME	13 – 14 Years Old	15 – 16 Years Old
Monday – Friday	5 hours	8 hours
Saturday	5 hours	8 hours
Sunday	2 hours	2 hours
Maximum Hours Per Week	25 hours	35 hours

16 – 18 Years Old

If a young person is old enough to leave school, they can work 40 hours a week

Local Authorities work to protect children and young people, local bylaws may also restrict the kind of volunteering work children can do.

Candidate Guidance Notes



Think of an Idea For a Project



Project Ideas

- A cake sale
- A sponsored event or challenge
- Organise a fun night at camp
- A taster session for younger children or new members
- Organise a stand or stall at a Summer or Christmas fête
- A fund raiser for a charity
- Organise a class as part of a bigger event
- A movie night for members
- Plan a picnic
- Organise an achievement badge rally
- A yard tidy day, get everyone involved



Gold Award Project

How to Structure the Project



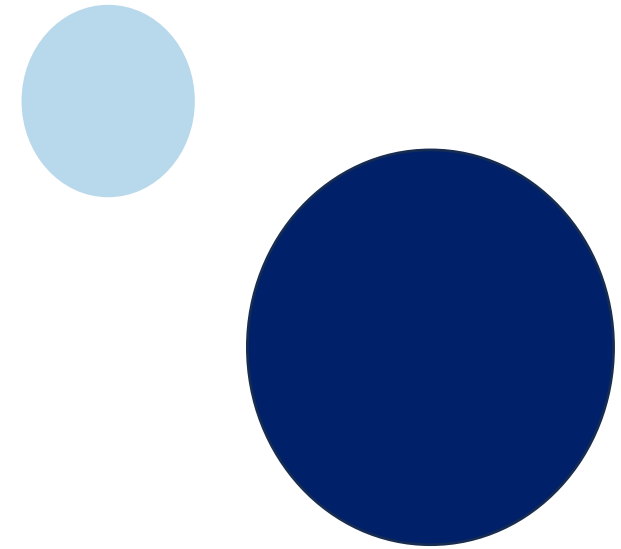
Description of your Project

It is important to provide an introduction, you will need to outline exactly what it is you intend to do. Describe the benefits to the British Equestrian Member Body, where your idea came from and how it is relevant to the Member Body you are volunteering with.

Aims

Set a target so you can measure the success of your project, this will help you detail what you have achieved during the course of your project.

Avoid setting an unrealistic target or something that is not possible to achieve.



Project Plan

Take your time to plan your project to ensure everything runs smoothly. Things to consider are:

What

- What are you going to do?
- What skills will you need to carry out your project?
- What challenges might you face?

When

- When is the best time to carry out your project? Chose a date, day and time that best suits you, the Member Body you are working with and anybody who you may need support from.
- Will the project be delivered on one day or over a number of days or sessions?
- How much time is required for preparation?

Who

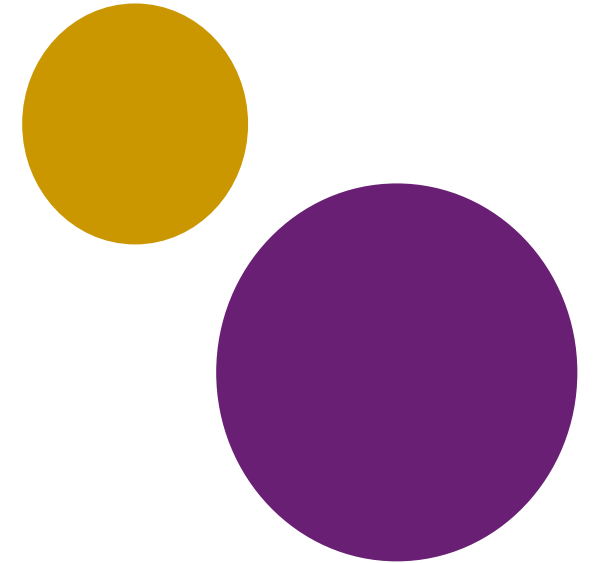
- Who will work on your project with you, are you part of a team or working on your own?
- Who can you ask for help?
- Who will benefit from your project?

Project Delivery



Your project will need to include evidence of how your plan was carried out. When thinking about recording the delivery of your project, you can consider the following:

- What happened when you were carrying out your project?
- Did your project follow your initial plan?
- Did anything change and why?
- Did you encounter any problems or setback? How did you overcome this?
- Did you carry out your project on your own or as part of a team?
- What did you learn?

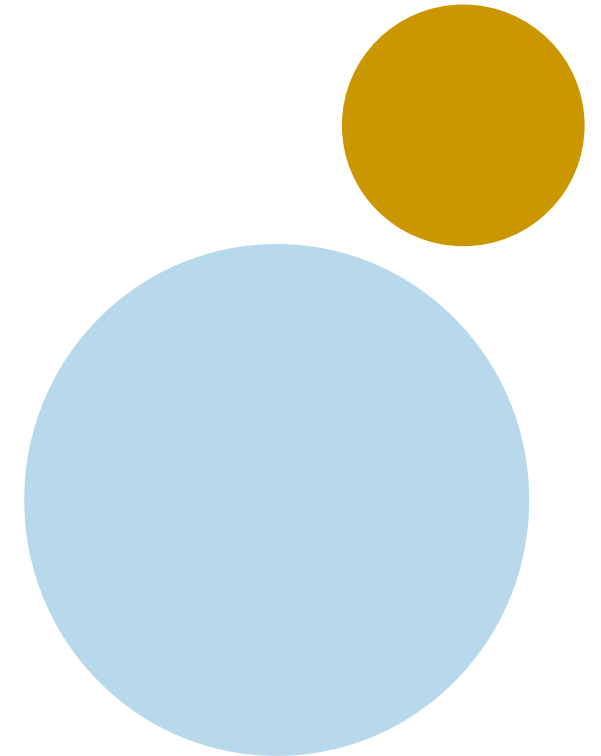


Remember

Showcase your project, take photos, include any documents you used such as planning ideas, invitations, list of attendees, costs and any profit, completed risk assessment and feedback from anyone involved with or attending the event.

Don't worry

If things don't go to plan, you can learn lots from how you overcome challenges.



Evaluation and Conclusion



Once your project is complete it is important to look back and consider how it went. Ask yourself:

- Were the aims of the project met?
- What went well?
- What didn't go so well and why?
- Would you do things differently next time?
- Did the project meet its aims?
- Did you enjoy working on your project?
- What did you learn from any unexpected issues?

FAQ's



Q. Can volunteering hours be backdated to before the date of registration?

A. No, only volunteering hours achieved from the date of registration can be recorded.

Q. How can I support my Members?

A. Organise a group planning session once a month to guide participants through the awards scheme. Use the Gold Award project planning structure as a template to help participants focus and develop their ideas. Involve them in the planning and running of events.

Q. How can I encourage more Members to join the YELA scheme?

A. Have a dedicated area on your website to YELA highlighting the benefits of scheme and the achievements of participants. Award certificates and badges at your presentation events. Have a YELA Team of current participants volunteering or present at your events, they will enjoy telling younger members and parents about it. Remember to advertise YELA before the summer to allow members register and to build up their hours over the summer holidays.

Q. Does YELA carry UCAS tariff points?

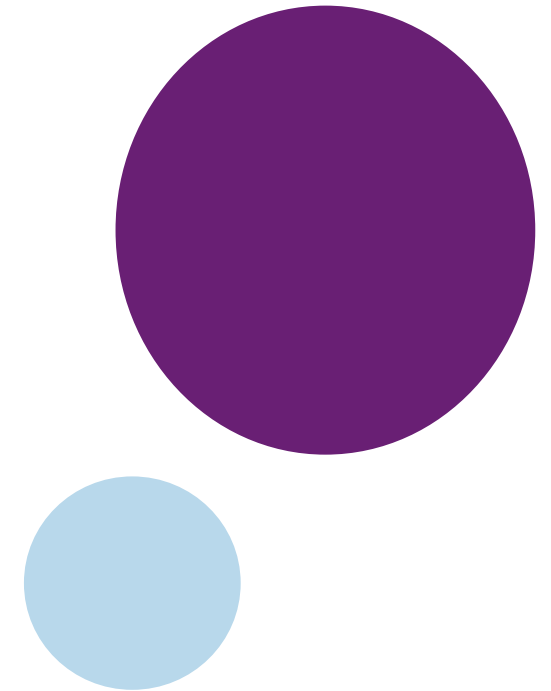
A. Currently, No.

Enjoy Yourself!



Make sure you enjoy yourself, volunteering is one of the most fulfilling roles that will not only benefit those you are working with but also you.

The Pony Club Values of Togetherness, Empathy, Respect and Learning are all integral to volunteering and go hand in hand with Fun, Friendship and a Lifelong Love of Horses.





For further information or guidance please visit

[Young Equestrian Leaders Award The Pony Club \(pcuk.org\)](https://www.pcuk.org)

or email yela@pcuk.org