



Schools Award

Rules

1. This Award is to encourage and reward schools and educational establishments that increase the understanding and appreciation, among young people of the environmental, social and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests and of the link between trees and everyday wood products.

The Award will be made annually in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. Judging will take place on a regional basis. Entries are invited from schools, colleges, educational organisations and charities.

Eligible projects might include:

- practical improvements to trees and woodlands on schools grounds or in the local community
 - a programme of learning in a woodland or forest environment e.g. Forest School or forest industry setting
 - a classroom based study of trees, woods, forests or the forest industry
2. To enter a school you need to complete an entry form and include any examples of pupils' work, photographs, videos etc. It is free to enter and entry forms can be downloaded from the Royal Forestry Society website and submitted electronically. **Please refer to the judging guidelines when completing your application.**
 3. The completed entry form should be sent to Trefor Thompson, Plas Canol, Llanrhydd, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 2UU. E-mail: rfscompetition@boyns.net.

The closing date for entries is noon on Tuesday 6 March 2012

4. Judging will usually take place in May. It is particularly important that the Judges should meet and be accompanied by those staff responsible for creating and delivering the project. Entries may be shortlisted by a panel of judges who will score each entry based on the details submitted and on how the project relates to the guidelines set out below. Short-listed schools will receive a judges' visit

5. The Award will consist of:

First Prize: A trophy (to be held for one year) with a cash prize of £1,000 and a Certificate.

Second Prize: One second prize of £500 and a Certificate.

Certificates of Merit: In addition these may be awarded at the judge's discretion.

Awards will be presented at the winning schools/educational establishments usually in July.

7. The competition is free to enter.
8. Prizes may be modified as the RFS Management Committee sees fit



9. No member of any Judging Panel and no national RFS officer may enter their own project for the Award during their term of office.
10. The Society reserves the right to:-
- (a) suspend the competition at its own discretion.
 - (b) decide against awarding any or all of the prizes if it feels they are not warranted.

Judging guidelines

Your project needs to meet at least one of the aims (1-4) below. Projects will score highly if they meet more than one of the aims.

A. To what extent has the project increased the use of woodlands and related industries for first hand learning? Projects will score highly if they provide opportunities for active learning in woodland settings; visits to related industry sites such as sawmills, or wood product manufacturers and or where a hands-on experience has been provided in the school grounds.

B. To what extent has the project increased the opportunity for pupils to learn about the importance of trees and forests for conservation of the environment? Projects will score highly if they provide opportunities to learn about the critical role of the woodland environment such as its richness in bio diversity, landscape value and role in climate change.

C. To what extent has the project increased the opportunities for pupils to learn about the link between trees and everyday wood products? Projects will score highly if pupils are provided with an opportunity to learn about the social and economic benefits of wood as a sustainable resource, both locally and globally.

D. To what extent does the project increase the opportunities for pupils to improve their emotional and physical well-being? Projects will score highly if they offer a range of educational, training and learning experiences with wood, trees and woodlands and where pupils demonstrate an increase in self-esteem and confidence.

Other points to consider are:

E. To what extent does the project relate to the curriculum? Projects will score highly if they link across a number of curriculum areas and whole school initiatives. A project will also score highly if there is evidence that it is embedded into the schools teaching and learning rather than as an 'add on'.

F. To what extent have pupils and teachers - the school community been involved in the project? Projects with pupil involvement in designing and planning, as well as implementation and reviewing of the project outcomes will score highly.

G. To what extent has the wider community been involved in the project? Projects will score highly if they show that there has been communication and or direct participation with parents and the wider community.

H. To what extent does the scheme have a lasting impact on the environmental/social and/or economic aspects of the school (i.e. its overall sustainability)? Projects will score highly if they improve the quality of life for pupils, teachers and wider community. In particular if the project helps to secure environmental justice for those who suffer the worst local environments.

I. To what extent does the school hope to build on this project in the future? Projects will score highly if they show that the lessons learned at the end of the project period will be transferred into future forest education activity.



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