

Long Service Awards - FAQs

Long Service Awards are the RNLI's way of recognising the dedication and commitment of long serving volunteers.

Award specific questions (Hardware)

What do the long service awards look like?



Who manufactures the awards?

Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd
56 Broad St
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B61 8LL

Will my badge/medal be engraved with my name?

Badges will be engraved on the back with your initials and surname. Medals will not be engraved.

Who is on the Long Service Medal?

The RNLI founder, Sir William Hillary, is pictured on the Long Service Medal.

How voluntary service is calculated

All voluntary service in any RNLI volunteer role will be combined and a final calculation will be produced annually. Once a milestone has been reached, ie 20 years, you will receive an award.

Awards will not be produced if you are between a milestone ie 23 years service – an award will be produced at 30 years.

Eligibility

Who is eligible to receive a Long Service Award?

Any volunteer who has completed the relevant service (ie 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 years service). We will be recognising 5 and 10 years anniversaries very soon – please look out for the latest information here <https://rnli.org/support-us/become-a-volunteer/volunteer-zone/excellence-in-volunteering-awards>

I am on crew and have received a long service award before – can I still have one?

Initially, we are only awarding volunteers who have not previously received recognition for long service. If you have received an award previously, you are able to purchase one of the new awards by emailing LSA@rnli.org.uk Once those who have not been recognised have received their awards, we will notify you with steps on how to purchase and what the cost will be.

I have received a bronze, silver or gold badge under the previous scheme – can I still have one?

Yes, as many recipients of these awards were recognised for other volunteering efforts, not just for long service – we would like to ensure that all volunteers are thanked for the dedicated and longstanding commitment to the RNLI.

I am on crew and would like one of the old badges, can I opt for that instead?

Yes, if you would like one of the previous badges we will honour this for the next 12 months.

I am on crew and have received one of the old long service badges, can I have the bar added to it?

Yes, we will honour this for the next 12 months.

When do I receive a long service award?

Currently we are awarding recognition at the following milestones: 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years. We

have taken a phased approach and will introduce a 5 and 10 year award at a later point. The 5 and 10 years awards will not be medals. Medals are introduced at 20 years.

Will I receive a new award at each milestone?

Yes. If you choose to opt for a badge, you will receive a badge highlighting the relevant milestone.

If you opt for a medal, you will receive the medal at 20 years and then at every 10 year milestone afterwards, you will receive a clasp which attaches onto the ribbon and highlights the relevant milestone.

I have done a minimum of 20 years voluntary service – how do I get my award?

In the first instance, please speak to your volunteer manager. They will then be able to order this on your behalf using the designated form on the RNLI website. Only volunteer managers can request these awards.

I have volunteered for under 20 years – do I receive anything?

We have plans to recognise voluntary service at both 5 and 10 year milestones. This isn't ready quite yet but we will keep you updated with the progress on the awards page on the RNLI website.

Award presentation & events

How will I receive my award?

Your award will be sent to your relevant Regional Base. Your local volunteer manager will ensure you receive your award once it is ready.

Will I be invited to an event?

We are currently reviewing the events for 2020 – further details will be available shortly, please go to the awards webpage (RNLI.org/VolunteerAwards) for the latest information.

Wearing of the medal/badge

How do I wear the medal on occasions such as parades/Remembrance Days?

The supplier will include instructions for this with your medal. However, the Long Service Medals should be worn on the right breast.

Military medals and those awarded by, or on behalf of, the Sovereign (Queen's or King's Head on the medal) must be worn on the left over the heart if they were awarded to the individual.

It is also permitted to wear those medals of a deceased relative on Remembrance Day but these must be worn on the right breast to denote the individual is not the recipient.

Other medals, for example those awarded by the RNLI (Gallantry Award) must also be worn on the right breast.

How do I wear the badge on occasions?

The long service badge can be worn anywhere. This is a personal preference and is up to you.

I have asked for a medal – can I buy the badge?

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Yes – this option will be available in the new year. Please email LSA@rnli.org.uk to request purchasing the alternative award. Once the first choice awards are dispatched, we will contact you with next steps on how to purchase the badge/medal.

If you have any other questions please email LSA@rnli.org.uk