

Long Service Awards 2026: Frequently Asked Questions

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

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Award-specific questions (hardware)

- What do the Long Service Awards look like?



Figure 1 - RNLi Long Service Awards.

- 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 be engraved around the edge of the medal.

- **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 (excluding any breaks in service) and a final calculation will be produced annually. Once a milestone has been reached, e.g. 20 years, you will receive an award.

Awards will not be produced if you are between milestones – e.g. 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 (i.e. 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60, 70, 80 years' service).

When do I receive a Long Service Award?

Currently we are awarding recognition at the following milestones: 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 years.

- **Will I receive a new award at each milestone?**

Yes. We will be contacting you via email after the deadline for nominations has closed in March to ask about your choice of award, unless you have already expressed your preference. We will be asking you to respond with your award choice within two weeks using the online form. 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 receive a clasp at every 10-year milestone afterwards. The clasp 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 know of someone who might be eligible for a Long Service Award – how do I nominate them?**

If you are their volunteer manager, please visit the [Recognition and Awards page on the Volunteer Zone](#) and scroll down to the Long Service Awards section to complete the online form.

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

We have developed our new service recognition open to all volunteers from January 2026. This will be for 1, 5 and 10 years' service. Please look out for further information on [Recognition and Awards page on the Volunteer Zone](#).

Award presentation and events

- **How will I receive my award?**

Awards will be shared with Regional Teams in May for local distribution. Further information on this will appear on the [Recognition and Awards page on the Volunteer Zone](#).

Wearing of the medal/badge

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

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 (such as a 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?

or

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

Yes – this option will be available later in the year. Details of how to purchase the alternative award will be included with your Long Service Award.

Why has the timetable been changed for Long Service Awards for Lifeguards?

To ensure we can recognise as many people as possible, we have changed the timetable for nominations for Long Service Awards for Lifeguards to coincide with their recruitment timetable. This will enable us to present the awards before the end of the Lifeguard season.

If you have any other questions, please email volunteer_recognition@mli.org.uk