

Beautiful Scotland options and categories

Our FREE Beautiful Scotland initiative gives communities guidance, advice, support, and a structure on how to make improvements to their place, through horticultural/gardening, environmental, and community activities. It also provides opportunities for networking, recognition and celebration.

When registering to take part, you'll need to select which option you'd like, and also which category your community is in. The following information outlines how to do this - if you have any questions before registering, please get in touch by [email](#) or phone (07720 090 560).

1. Judged or non-judged option?

First, you need to select whether your group/community wishes to be in the judged or non-judged option. Below outlines the differences between the two:

Judged

The opportunity to showcase your community, focusing on the three pillars of Beautiful Scotland (horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility, community participation), and the chance to be recognised/awarded with:

- A medal certificate (bronze, silver, silver-gilt, gold)
- A category award (e.g. best small village)
- The overall premier award - the Rosebowl
- Discretionary awards (there are 14 of these e.g. best for sustainability, best for community engagement)
- Community awards (there are 5 of these e.g. best for gardening with young people, best for gardening for wildlife)

You will be visited by a pair of our volunteer judges in late July/early August and take them on a tour of your community – a fantastic opportunity to shine 😊.

To keep you right on what to show our judges, check out our [standard mark sheet](#) which includes guidance and the criteria the judges look for.

As well as the tour, there are two other showcase opportunities – your year-round diary and your presentation – check out our [top tips](#).

Throughout the whole process, you'll have access to:

- Support and resources, including mentor support from our volunteer judges
- Guidance and advice
- Opportunities to network and learn from other groups.

You'll also be sent our quarterly e-newsletter, packed full of inspiring stories, funding information and resources, and receive invites to events and info sessions.

Non-judged

If you've taken part in the judged option before and would like to take a year off, or have just recently started working in partnership across your village/town/city, then you may wish to select our non-judged option (although we'd always encourage you to try our 'judged' option as it has so many more opportunities for support, guidance, recognition and celebration).

The non-judged option enables you to stay in our Network and you'll have access to:

- Mentor support from our volunteer judges, including an informal and friendly visit between April and end September
- Community awards (there are 5 of these e.g. best for gardening with young people, best for gardening for wildlife)

You'll be sent our quarterly e-newsletter, packed full of inspiring stories, funding information and resources, and receive invites to events and info sessions.

2. Categories

As well as selecting judged or non-judged above, you also need to select the relevant category for your community. There are 13 categories, ranging from Small Village to City. The categories are based on the electoral roll figure for your village/town/city – see table below:

Category	Electoral roll figure
Wee Village	Up to 300
Small Village	301-1,000
Large Village	1,001-2,500
Coastal Village*	Up to 2,500
Coastal Town*	2,501-35,000
Small Town	2,501-6,000
Medium Town	6,001-12,000
Large Town	12,001-35,000
Small City	35,001-100,000
City	100,001 and over
Residential Community*	N/A
Business Improvement District (BID)*	N/A
Urban Community*	N/A
Town Centre & City Centre*	N/A

Please note, the categories with a * have extra criteria and/or don't need an electoral roll figure – [read this document](#) to see if any fit your group/community.

Before you register for this year, follow our [step by step guidance](#) to obtain your most recent electoral roll figure – then, when you fill out our simple online registration form, select the category that relates to this figure.