

Role Title: Volunteer Judge
Programme: Beautiful Scotland
Department: Communities Team



We are Scotland's charity for the environment, with a vision for a clean, green, sustainable Scotland.

We're lucky to live in such a beautiful country and we want to keep it that way. We have three goals - to combat climate change, tackle litter and waste, and protect and enhance the places we live, work and visit. We know that we can't make a difference on our own, so we work with you to enable positive change.

We are responsible for managing and administering a major environmental initiative in Scotland called Beautiful Scotland. Entrants from across Scotland are judged on three pillars of activity: horticultural achievement; environmental responsibility; and community participation, before being presented with awards in the autumn to recognise their sustained efforts throughout the year. In 2021 we supported 50 (check number) groups across Scotland to take part in Beautiful Scotland.

Beautiful Scotland is part of the Royal Horticultural Society's [Britain in Bloom](#) campaign which Keep Scotland Beautiful delivers in Scotland. A number of the Beautiful Scotland award winners are nominated to represent Scotland at the UK finals the following year.

We could not run Beautiful Scotland and achieve the results it does without the support of volunteers from across the country.

Role Purpose

To provide support, encouragement, guidance, celebration and assessment to Beautiful Scotland entrants under the three pillars of horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation and their relevant sub-sections.

Role Information

The Task:

To ensure that the Beautiful Scotland entrants are supported and judged in line with the three pillars and sub sections. With support and training from us, Volunteer Judges are responsible for supporting the judging process, providing invaluable constructive guidance to the entrants on how best to achieve their goals, and encouraging good practice.

Volunteer Judges work in pairs, and you would be assigned a mentor and would join them on at least three of their judging visits. Judging visits range from 1 hour 30 mins to 5 hours depending on the category (e.g. Coastal Town, City, Small Village etc.), which is based on electoral roll size. The entrant group is asked to submit a portfolio of activity across the three pillars for judges to review before the visit. On the day, entrants give a brief presentation before taking the judges on a tour of the community to see evidence of the activities and goals met and to talk to those involved.

Prior to a judging visit, Volunteer Judges are provided with contact details for the entrant, a copy of the previous year's marking sheet (if appropriate), documents for judging including marking sheets, and the entrant's portfolio. Following the judging visit, judges should complete the marking sheet and send back to Keep Scotland Beautiful (with photos evidencing good practice, if taken) by e-mail before the judges debriefing day in mid-August. As a new judge, for the first two years you would be shadowing your mentor during the judging process and would be expected to write up one of the visits for their approval/comments.

The Benefits:

Volunteer Judges have a powerful influence on the success of Beautiful Scotland, and on the entrants they visit. Being a Volunteer Judge is rewarding and provides an opportunity to visit inspiring projects, share knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm to support others who are working to improve their local environmental quality, and to meet other like-minded people from across Scotland. It can also contribute to your own professional development.

The Commitment:

Judging tours take place during the first fortnight in August, with the timing of the visits agreed between the judging team and the entrant. The number of entrants to be visited will depend on the category you are allocated, and the number of days a Volunteer Judge is able to commit to, but this is typically between two and five (for new volunteers, you will be expected to go on at least three of your mentor's judging visits). There will be portfolios and past mark sheets to read before your visits. There is a judges' debriefing session on afternoon of 18 August; and you will receive an invite to attend the Spring Seminar for groups (April, date TBC) award ceremony (mid September, date TBC) and annual seminar (mid November, date TBC). There may also be a couple of other meetings through the year.

Training:

Volunteer Judges are provided with documents for judging, which provide detailed information on how to carry out an assessment, what to look for, and how to complete the marking sheet. All new Volunteer Judges are required to attend a Judges' Training Day held at the start of July (date and location TBC). The team at Keep Scotland Beautiful is also always available to answer further questions.

We aim to give as much support as possible to Volunteer Judges on their first visits, and will always pair a new Volunteer Judge up with an experienced judge who will act as your mentor for the first two years.

Expenses

Being a Volunteer Judge is a voluntary role, but we are able to offer travel and subsistence expenses.

Disclosure Scotland/PVG Scheme check

This role is not subject to a PVG scheme check application.

Further information

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Judge please complete the Volunteer Application Form or, to find out more information, please contact one of the team at jobs@keepsotlandbeautiful.org or 01786 471333.

Main Duties

1. To arrange and carry out judging tours of entrants participating in Beautiful Scotland.
2. To complete the marking sheet and provide constructive and encouraging feedback for each entrant judged.
3. (Optional) to offer support and guidance to entrants through mentor visits.
4. To work with the Communities Team to ensure that Beautiful Scotland is delivered in a timely and professional manner.
5. To familiarise with, support the development of, and adhere to all relevant internal policies and procedures.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Education / Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluent in written and spoken English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification in horticulture, environmental science and / or community engagement • Driving License
Experience/ Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in horticulture • Ability to communicate effectively to support and encourage community groups • An interest in reducing negative impacts on the environment • Computer literate and experience with Microsoft Word and email 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in environmental education, campaigns and awareness raising • An understanding of environmental, sustainability and climate change science, policy and practice • An understanding of the environmental sector and the role of environmental organisations across Scotland • Experience of horticulture/gardening
Competences	<p>Behaving ethically - Identifying and resolving own concerns and those of others, in a fair and manner, whilst also striving to comply fully with legal and organisational values, standards and of practice.</p> <p>Customer focus - Understanding of own role and its relationship to the customer, internal and external, continuously focusing on seeking to exceed customer expectations.</p> <p>Making and meeting commitments - Executing and achieving what is promised through plan and organising priorities. Monitoring progress to ensure consistently high standards.</p>	
Values and Attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to the aims and objectives of Keep Scotland Beautiful • Belief in partnership working • Flexibility • Confident • Enthusiastic • Commitment to equal opportunities and healthy and safe working practices • Able to exercise discretion in handling confidential and sensitive information 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to travel • Able to undertake some evening and weekend commitments • Willingness to participate in training (where relevant) 	