



Young Wildlife Conservationist of the Year Award



About the award

- Two categories:
 - **Category One: Championing & Campaigning**
 - **Category Two: Inspiring & Influencing**
- Who can apply?
 - Aged 16-25
 - UK-based
 - Individuals or pairs
 - Activities in the past 12 months – deadline 1st September
- Award Prize

Nomination process

- Self-nomination or nominating someone else
 1. Get consent
 2. Provide details of nomination supporters if self-nominating
 3. Complete the nomination form
 4. Submit a 400-word statement, photos or a 2-minute video

Assessment criteria

- Quality of submission
- Impact and outcomes
- Alignment with ZSL Youth Advisory Board core values
- Alignment with ZSL's strategic pillars

- Judging panel comprises members of ZSL's Youth Advisory Board, Conservation Education team and other subject experts from across ZSL
- Achievements are considered in the context of age, access to opportunity and available resources

FAQs

- **What is the policy on use of AI to develop nominations?**

Nominations must reflect the candidate's original ideas and contributions and not those primarily generated by AI. If AI has been used in the preparation of the nomination, candidates must include a statement describing which parts of the work involved AI. Candidates should briefly explain how and why AI tools were used (for example, editing, improving readability).

- **Does volunteering abroad count?**

Yes, a written report, article or narrative (or any more creative output) of your experience volunteering abroad or in the UK and the impact of this would be acceptable. Volunteering, regardless of location, counts!

- **Do activities carried out during my university course count?**

Yes, however the ZSL Charles Darwin Award and Marsh Prize is for best undergraduate thesis, so if you wish to use the work done for your undergraduate thesis, this will need to be reproduced into a different format, for example, a blog or other narrative style. Other activities carried out during your university course count.

- **Does EPQ count/will the write-up itself be kept private?**

Yes, EPQ counts, and only the project title, your name and school will be publicly announced. The report or project itself will only be available to the judging panel and not shared more widely so as not to impact marking of your qualification.

- **Can I apply to both categories?**

No, you must select just one of the two categories on nomination. Assessors may decide that a nomination is more aligned to the alternative category from that which the nominee chose, and this will not affect the subsequent scoring.

- **Can you include both written and photo supporting info?**

Yes, photos and supporting written information can be submitted together.

- **How many awards will be given each year?**

Up to three awards will be given each year.

Finally...

- Deadline 1st September 2026
- Get in touch: linda.davolls@zsl.org
- Find more info and download the nomination form: <https://www.zsl.org/about-zsl/awards/young-wildlife-conservationist-year-award>



Thank you!

