



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2019

Community Woodlands Award Information Sheet

£2,000 of prize money

Supporters:



Two competition categories: small community woodland and large community woodland group

What is it for?

All over Scotland people are working to support their local communities through woodland projects. Our judges want to recognise and reward their achievement.

What sort of project is eligible?

Entry is open to community-based woodland projects from any part of Scotland.

There are two prize categories and entrants can enter the one applicable to their community woodland group:

- **Small community woodland group** - entry is open to projects such as community woodlands, urban woodlands or other projects which focus on involving communities with their woodland environment and thereby enhancing the lives of local people. Your community woodland group is likely to be entirely made up of volunteers and with an annual turnover of no more than £20,000. You will be asked to demonstrate the contribution that your project makes to the lives of local people and explain the steps you are taking to ensure sustainability of the project for the long term.
- **Large community woodland group** – you will be a large community woodland group and may have a member of staff or someone working with you on a dedicated time basis. Your turnover is likely to be over £20,000/annum. You will be asked to demonstrate how your project contributes to sustainable development across the three strands of social, economic and environmental development. The judges will be looking for a holistic approach that delivers outcomes and benefits across all three strands.

All entrants should be able to demonstrate significant and sustained community input.

Prizes

There is £2,000 in cash prizes available. This shall be awarded by way of **£1,000** for the winning project in each category at the discretion of the judges. In addition, the prestigious **Tim Stead Trophy** will be awarded to the best winning project overall at the discretion of the judges with custody for one year.

Other high quality entries may receive a judges' commendation.

The winners and any commended entries will receive a **certificate** and a **wooden display plaque** recording their achievement.

Award ceremony

The winning projects will be presented with their prizes on **Friday, 21st June 2019** at the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, Edinburgh. An additional local presentation can be made on the project site so that all those involved can join the celebrations.

Judging

The judges aim to **visit short-listed entries during April/May 2019**. You will be contacted by the judges directly in April 2019 regarding any site visit. If you do not hear from the judges by early May your entry has not been short-listed.

Our judges' task will be to find and reward the pursuit of excellence and the judges will assess entries against the following criteria:

- Quality of entry form and supporting information
- Clarity of management objectives
- Quality of project design and implementation
- The degree of progress and necessary adaptation since inception, including looking at future sustainability
- Likelihood of achieving the project's original objectives.

Aspects that the judges will be looking for include:

- An innovative approach
- Active engagement with the local community
- Woodland management appropriate to the site
- Safeguarding and enhancing natural heritage and historic environment features
- Provision of recreation and other community facilities
- Direct or indirect economic benefits to the community.

How to enter

Simply complete a short entry form to provide the location, contact detail, summary project information and a statement in no more than **500 words** why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this prestigious award and be an exemplar to others.

Copies of the entry form can be downloaded from the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards' website www.sfwa.co.uk and should be submitted electronically unless otherwise agreed in advance.

If you wish you may provide supporting information such as a summary project or business plan, latest annual accounts, map, publicity leaflets, photographs or videos (though these must be no more than 60 seconds maximum) to help our judges make their decision. Ideally these should be sent electronically; otherwise by post (two copies please). Any email (including any attachments) must not exceed 10MB in total though you may send 2-3 emails if necessary.

Closing date for entries

Please submit your application as early as possible and by Sunday, 31st March 2019 at the very latest. Late entries will not be considered.

Publicity

An objective of Scotland's Finest Woods and its partners is to showcase entrants as exemplars of good practice so as to encourage others. By entering the competition, entrants are accepting that their woodland may be used as an example of good practice in post-competition publicity and, as may be agreed with the entrant, in other ways.

In order to maximise the potential for obtaining publicity entrants are requested to provide publication quality photography as well as a video of up to a maximum 60 seconds length if available.

For more information please see www.sfwa.co.uk or contact:

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See www.sfwa.co.uk for full information and follow us on [Twitter](#) as well as [Facebook](#) !