



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Outdoor &
Woodland
Learning
SCOTLAND



SFWA Schools and Early Years Award Categories- Guidance Notes

If you have undertaken any project or programme involving trees, woods, forestry and related industries you are eligible to apply. Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland love seeing the variety of ways that educators in Scotland engage learners with trees, woods and forestry. A series of case studies have been created showing previous winners and runners up in order to assist with the application process. These are available through the [OWL Scotland website](#).

Please remember that judging of applications can only be based upon information included in this application form (including links to websites/ social media etc). We encourage you to include all relevant and important information to this application form and do not forget to include linking projects with related industries (i.e. woodwork, habitat management, citizen science/ species recording, etc).

The follow criteria will be used by the judges and can be used as a guide to structure answers for this application.

Judging Criteria

- 1. To what extent have sessions increased the use of woodlands and related industries for first hand learning?**
2. To what extent have sessions increased the opportunity for learners to understand the importance of trees and forests for conservation of the environment?
- 3. To what extent has this work increased the opportunities for learners to understand the link between trees and everyday wood products?**
4. To what extent do sessions increase the opportunities for learners to improve their emotional and physical wellbeing?
5. To what extent do sessions relate to the curriculum?

Community Project Involvement

6. To what extent has the whole educational setting/ school community been involved in the project?
7. To what extent has the 'Learners Voice' influenced the purpose and outcome of the sessions.
8. To what extent has the wider community been involved in the project?

Sustainability

9. How does the programme have a lasting impact on the environmental/social and/or economic aspects of the setting (i.e. its overall sustainability)?
10. How does the setting hope to build on these in the future?

SFWA Schools/ Early Years Application Form 2026

Name of Setting/ School

Type of Setting/ School (Early Years/Primary/Secondary/Other please specify)

Name of Contact:

Contact's role:

Phone Number:

Mobile Number:

Address of Setting/ School: (Full address with postcode)

Email address:

The above fields are mandatory. Applications without this information cannot be accepted.
Please use Judging Criteria in Guidance Notes above to help complete this application form.

1. Images and videos help our judges gain a clearer understanding of what your setting has been working on and achieving. **Please enter hyperlinks** to any photos or videos to support your application here. Please do not attach electronic photos, videos and/or files to the application as our systems will not accept these.

2. Please describe the aims of the programme/project that was undertaken

3. Programme/ Project:

A. Please describe what was done during the programme/project.

B. Please describe the outcomes of the programme/ project

4. How does the programme/project relate to the curriculum? How have you connected this project to circular experiences and outcomes.

5. Describe the involvement of:

A. Teachers and other staff in this setting-

B. Pupils/Children –

C. Wider community (parents, other local organisations etc) –

6. How does this programme/project influence/ impact the way your setting embeds learning for sustainability within the curriculum.

7. What are your plans for developing the programme in the future?

Your entry form should be submitted by email by the deadline of 31st March 2026 to:
Eilidh.malcolm@forestry.gov.scot