



GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING AWARDS 2026

APPLICATION GUIDE

Honoring excellence in volunteering

Goodera aims to recognize and celebrate companies and leaders who are pioneering employee volunteering efforts.

The Global Volunteering Awards recognize best-in-class employee volunteer programs across 12 award categories: 6 for companies, and 6 for individuals.

NOMINATION
DEADLINE:

FEBRUARY 15,
2026

Award Categories

Nominations are open for 12 award categories this year.

6

COMPANY AWARDS

Nominate your company for its outstanding volunteering efforts in 2025

6

CHANGEMAKER AWARDS

Nominate individuals for enabling volunteering in 2025

Evaluation Process

1. **Nomination Phase:** [Find the nomination form here.](#) Nominees must submit their application forms by Feb 15, 2026.
2. **Evaluation:** An independent jury of social impact leaders will evaluate submissions based on predefined criteria.
3. **Announcement:** Winners will be announced during an awards ceremony at Global Volunteering Summit 2026 in San Jose on Feb 25, 2026.

For any clarifications, please write to teamgvs@goodera.com

Company Awards



The Volunteering Powerhouse

for the most consistent volunteering effort



The Mobilizer

for driving the highest participation from the workforce



The Innovator

for driving innovation in employee volunteering initiatives



Impact Accelerator

for a rapid scale-up of the volunteering program



The Global Champion

for expanding volunteering initiatives globally



The Purpose Pioneer

for mission-driven volunteering programs addressing key societal challenges

Changemaker Awards



Volunteering Leader of the Year

for the most consistent volunteering effort



AI for Impact

for promoting AI-led volunteering in their organization



Engagement Architect

for leading champion network development and engagement



Impactpreneur

for launching unique and innovative volunteering program(s)



Rising Star

for young practitioners driving employee volunteering in their organizations



Community Ally

for engaging affinity groups in volunteering programs



The Volunteering Powerhouse

for the largest consistent volunteering effort.

Criteria

- Total volunteer hours contributed
- Diversity of initiatives
- Sustainability of volunteering initiatives
- Community Impact

This award will be given to a company in each of the following 2 categories:

- Companies with less than 20,000 employees
- Companies with more than 20,000 employees

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. What is the total number of volunteer hours contributed by your company in the past year?
2. How were these hours distributed across various initiatives?
3. What strategies were employed to sustain high levels of volunteering?
4. What measurable impact did these hours have on the community?



The Mobilizer

for driving the highest participation from the workforce.

Criteria

- Percentage of the workforce participating in volunteering
- Strategies to enhance employee engagement
- Policies and tools to promote employee volunteering
- Impact on employee morale and community

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. What percentage of your workforce participated in volunteering initiatives?
2. What strategies were used to achieve high participation rates?
3. What policies, tools, and platforms have been adopted to promote employee volunteering?
4. What impact has workforce participation had on your company and the community?



The Innovator

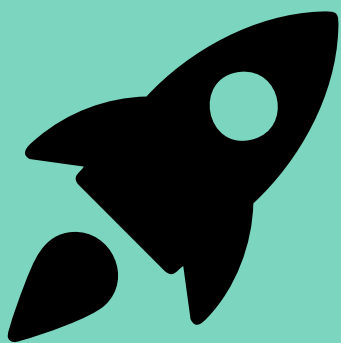
for redefining possibilities with innovation focussed volunteering initiatives.

Criteria

- Innovation in volunteering programs
- Effective use of emerging technologies to enhance impact
- Evidence of initiatives that are scalable and sustainable
- Measurable outcomes that showcase effectiveness and impact

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. Describe the innovative approach your organization adopted for this volunteering initiative. What makes it unique compared to traditional methods?
2. How has your program integrated technology or other forward-thinking solutions to enhance its impact? Provide specific examples.
3. What measurable outcomes were achieved through this initiative? How have they addressed critical societal challenges?
4. How is your program designed to ensure scalability and sustainability in the long term?



Impact Accelerator

for rapid scale-up of a volunteering program.

Criteria

- Growth in volunteering programs over a defined period
- Innovative approaches to scaling up
- Community impact of scaled programs
- Sustainability of volunteering initiatives

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. How much growth did you see in employee volunteering hours in the past year?
2. What innovative strategies were used to scale up the program?
3. What measurable community impact has been achieved through the scaled-up programs?
4. How are you ensuring consistency of your volunteering initiatives this year?



The Global Champion

for expanding volunteering initiatives globally.

Criteria

- Geographical spread of the volunteering program
- Strategies for geographic expansion
- Impact on new regions and communities
- Employee involvement across regions

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. Describe the scope of your volunteering initiatives. How many regions or countries were covered, and what challenges were addressed in each location?
2. How did you ensure that your programs were culturally relevant and impactful in the regions you served?
3. What percentage of employees across different locations participated in these initiatives? Provide details on how you engaged them.
4. What measurable impact have your volunteering initiatives had in the communities across the regions you serve?



The Purpose Pioneer

for mission-driven volunteering initiatives addressing key societal challenges.

Criteria

- Clarity and alignment of the initiative's mission with societal challenges
- Innovation in addressing specific societal needs
- Tangible outcomes and measurable community impact
- Sustainability and scalability of the initiative

This award will be given to a company in each of the following 6 categories:

- Disaster Response
- Environment & Sustainability
- AI-led Impact
- Skills Based Volunteering
- Employability
- Education

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. Describe the mission of your volunteering program and the challenges you are solving for the society.
2. What solutions have you deployed to create impact?
3. What has been the impact of this program?
4. How have you ensured employee involvement across different locations?



Volunteering Leader of the Year

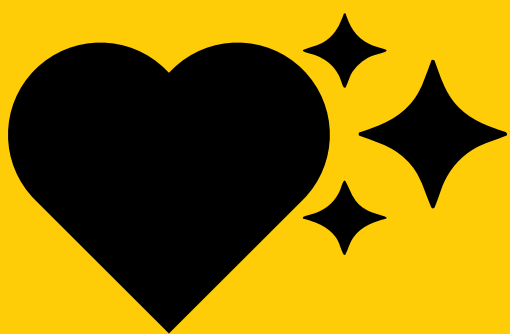
for exceptional leadership in driving impactful, inclusive, and innovative volunteering initiatives.

Criteria

- Demonstrated impact of volunteer initiatives
- Innovative approaches to employee engagement
- Alignment with organizational values and goals
- Advocacy for volunteering within the organization

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. Describe your key achievements in driving impactful volunteering initiatives.
2. How have you fostered employee participation and engagement in volunteering?
3. Share an example of an innovative or inclusive volunteering campaign led by you.
4. How has your leadership advanced the organization's CSR goals through volunteering?



AI for Impact

for promoting AI-led volunteering in their organization.

Criteria

- AI projects introduced in the company to solve nonprofit challenges
- Impact of AI projects on community and nonprofits
- Scalability and replicability of AI solutions
- Use of AI to scale up volunteering efforts

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. Describe any innovative AI-driven volunteering initiatives you introduced.
2. Which projects have you introduced in your organization to solve nonprofit challenges leveraging AI?
3. What has been the impact of these projects on community and nonprofits? How scalable and replicable are these AI solutions?
4. How are you approaching the scalability and sustainability of these solutions?



Engagement Architect

for leading champion network development and engagement.

Criteria

- Strength and structure of champion network
- Retention in champion network
- Engagement strategies for champions
- Impact of champion networks on volunteering programs

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. What is the current strength and role of your champion network? How are they distributed across different regions?
2. How much have you grown the champion network in the last year?
3. How many champions are active, i.e., organized at least 1 event last year? What strategies were used to engage and motivate champions?
4. How have champion networks amplified the impact of volunteering initiatives?



Impactpreneur

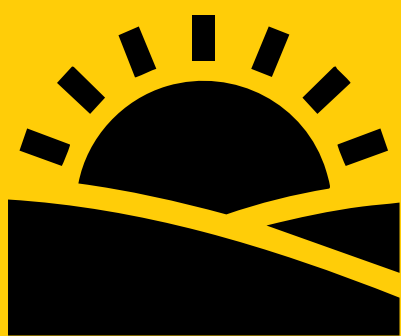
for launching unique and innovative volunteering program(s).

Criteria

- Originality of the volunteering program
- Measurable impact on community and employees
- Creativity in addressing social challenges
- Scalability and replicability of the initiative

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. Describe the innovative volunteering program and its unique aspects.
2. What specific community or social issue did the program address, and what impact did it achieve?
3. How did you ensure employee participation and engagement in the initiative?
4. Share any challenges faced and how they were overcome during the program's execution.



Rising star

for young professionals with exceptional passion, innovation, and leadership potential.

Criteria

- Demonstrated passion for driving volunteering efforts.
- Rapid growth and achievements in volunteering leadership
- Innovative ideas to enhance volunteering impact.
- Effective collaboration with teams and stakeholders.

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. Share your journey in volunteering and your key achievements so far.
2. What unique ideas or approaches have you implemented to improve volunteering initiatives?
3. How have you inspired or collaborated with others to amplify social impact?
4. What is your vision for the future of volunteering within your organization?



Community Ally

for promoting volunteering for affinity groups in their organization.

Criteria

- Tailoring programs for affinity groups
- Engagement and participation of affinity group members
- Impact on affinity groups and the broader company
- Long-term integration of affinity group volunteering programs

Evaluation questions (to be answered in under 200 words)

1. How have you tailored volunteering programs to meet the needs of affinity groups?
2. What strategies have been effective in engaging affinity group members in volunteering?
3. How has volunteering impacted affinity groups and the broader company culture?
4. What measures have been taken to integrate affinity group volunteering programs sustainably?

Ready to apply?

[Access the nomination form on this link.](#)

Submit your application forms by **Feb 15, 2026**, on the same link.



Global Volunteering Awards FAQ

Eligibility and Nominations

Q: Who is eligible to submit a nomination?

Any company or individual involved in corporate volunteering efforts is eligible to apply for the Global Volunteering Awards 2026.

Q: How do I submit my nomination?

Access the nomination form here: <https://goodera.typeform.com/to/sEhdSAYY>
Nominees can submit their application forms by Feb 15, 2026, on the same link.

Q: Can I apply for multiple award categories?

Yes, you may apply for multiple categories. However, each category requires a separate application tailored to its criteria.

Q: Is there a fee to submit a nomination?

No, submitting a nomination is free.

Global Volunteering Awards FAQ

Award Categories and Evaluation

Q: How many award categories are there?

There are 12 award categories: 6 awards for companies and 6 for individuals.

Q: What are the evaluation criteria for the awards?

Each category has specific criteria, such as volunteer hours, community impact, innovation, and program sustainability. Detailed criteria for each category can be found in the nomination form and this guide.

Q: Who evaluates the nominations?

An independent jury of social impact leaders will evaluate submissions based on predefined criteria.

Q: Can an company or individual win multiple awards?

No, while a company or individual can be nominated in multiple categories, they can only be awarded in one category. If selected as a winner in one category, they will not be eligible to win in another.

Submission Process

Q: Can I save my nomination form and complete it later?

No, the form does not save progress. We recommend that you prepare your responses in advance to ensure a smooth submission process.

Q: Do I need to submit supporting materials like photos or videos?

Although it's not mandatory, supporting materials such as photos, videos, or documents are recommended to showcase the impact of your initiatives.

Global Volunteering Awards FAQ

Award Ceremony

Q: When and where will the awards ceremony be held?

Winners will be announced during an awards ceremony at Global Volunteering Summit 2026 in San Jose on Feb 25, 2026.

Q: Do I need to attend the ceremony to win?

Attendance is not mandatory to win. Winners will be announced during the event, and trophy will be dispatched to the company address of recipients.

Miscellaneous

Q: Will finalists be notified in advance?

Yes, finalists will be notified before the ceremony. However, winners will remain confidential until the awards ceremony.

Q: Where can I get help or ask additional questions?

For any clarifications, please write to teamgvs@goodera.com

GVS '26

GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING SUMMIT 2026

Join us as we celebrate the spirit of employee volunteerism with 250+ Social Impact leaders.

Feb 25-26, 2026

Hayes Mansion,

San Francisco Bay Area, CA

[Register here](#) →



