



Youth Work Ireland Week



Celebrating Volunteers...
Our Local Heroes

April 1st - April 8th 2023




#LocalHero



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



Youth Work Ireland



Youth Work Ireland Week 2023

Youth Work Ireland Week

Youth Work Ireland Week takes place from **Saturday April 1st - Saturday April 8th** and we hope that we can use the week to celebrate and promote volunteers and the support they provide to local youth services.

Each year we focus on a theme and develop a national activity that provides young people with the opportunity to:

- Develop knowledge, learning and new skills around a topic or campaign.
- Participate in activities and events that support their personal and social development.
- Have their voices heard on the issues that are important to them.
- Showcase and promote the work of our Member Youth Services.
- Have fun and connect with other young people in their local communities.

Make sure to record, photograph and post any and all activities you are organising during Youth Work Ireland Week to your social media platforms tagging Youth Work Ireland and using the hashtag

#LocalHero

#LocalHero





Youth Work Ireland

Celebrating Our Local Heroes... Our Volunteers

As a federation we have always acknowledged and recognised the significant role volunteers play in supporting the wellbeing of the young people in our youth clubs.

Volunteering can provide people with the chance to give back to their local community, develop new skills, and meet people with similar interests. No matter the reason, volunteers give up their own time to support local youth services and we want to recognise and celebrate them.

So, for Youth Work Ireland Week 2023 we are saying a massive Thank You to our Local Heroes – Our Volunteers!

There are many ways - big and small, that we can do this, but the best way will be to make our volunteers feel special and hear about the impact that they make to young people when they give up their time every week to support youth clubs.

During Youth Work Ireland Week 2023 we are inviting youth clubs to recognise and celebrate their own local heroes - their volunteers, by organising celebratory activities and events.

There are a number of activities in this resource but feel free to come up with your own ideas and ways to celebrate volunteers and volunteering.

#LocalHero





Super Hero Cut Out Capes

- With this pack you will have received cut-out local hero cape cards which can be used in a session with your youth groups.
- Give each young person their own cut out cCape and ask them to write and decorate a personalised message of thanks to a volunteer they know and maybe a few words about why the volunteer is their local hero.
- Use the decorated cut out capes to create a *Wall of Appreciation* in your club or centre where all the capes are stuck up to display for all to see the impact the volunteers have on young people.

Certificates of Appreciation

- With this pack each Member Youth Service will receive personalised Certificates of Appreciation.
- Ask the young people to write the names of their local hero on the cert and present it to the volunteer during Youth Work Ireland Week.
- These can also be downloaded from the Youth Work Ireland website, customised and printed out at www.youthworkireland.ie/local-heroes

Lanyards

Each Member Youth Service will also receive a number of branded #LocalHero lanyards to gift to your local volunteers, that they can wear with pride.

Remember to take lots of photos and share to social media accounts.

#LocalHero





#LocalHero

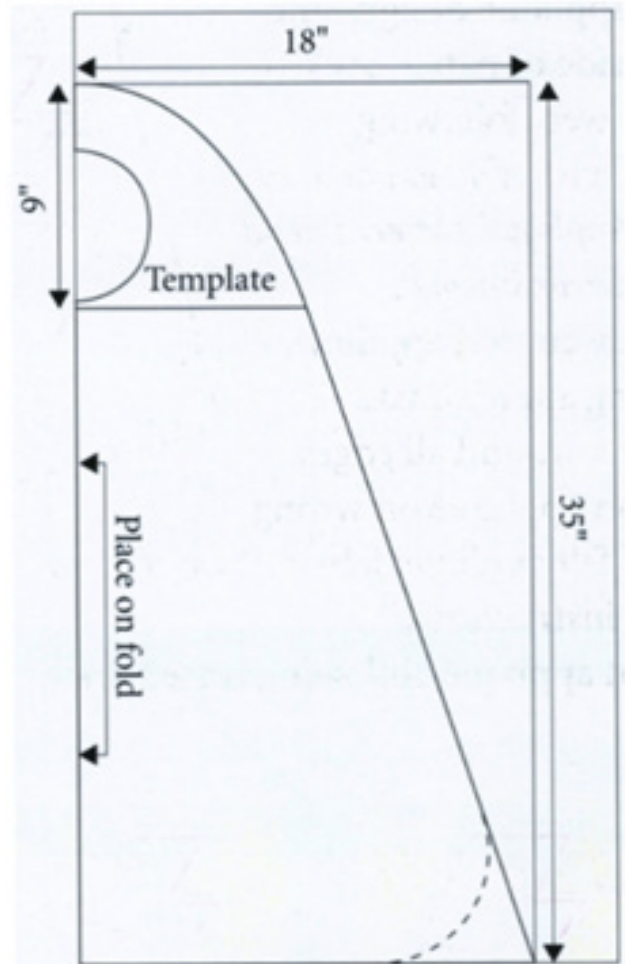


#LocalHero

Make Your Own Super Hero Capes

Design and make a Local Hero Cape

- If your group is feeling creative they can add to the previous activities and make a Super Hero Cape.
- This can be done using any old clothes, sheets or other materials.
- Use the template as a guide to size and cut out the materials.
- Alternatively, you can stitch pieces of material together to shape and create a simple cape.



There are lots of YouTube videos on how to make a capes so make sure to check them out.

The super hero cape can be presented to your local hero during a special celebration event.





Celebraing Volunteers Local Heroes

Bringing It All Together

Some other suggestions youth groups can do to bring these elements together -

- Dedicate one night during Youth Work Ireland Week to celebrating your local heroes, maybe host a party or gathering where they are the special guests.
- They can be presented with their Certificate of Appreciation, capes and lanyards on the night.
- Prior to Youth Work Ireland Week have the young people make a video/story/collage/TikTok to talk about and celebrate impact the local hero has had on them and their youth club.
- Create a storytelling campaign to celebrate your local heroes by linking in with local newspapers and radio stations to tell them about the volunteers who have volunteered in your groups in the past and the impact their volunteering has had on their local community.
- If you are having a celebration night invite local journalists, town Mayors or other important people in your community to attend too.
- Take part in our national volunteers communications campaign by sharing messages and encouraging others to volunteer with your service

Find out more at www.youthworkireland.ie/local-heroes

#LocalHero



Youth Work Ireland

YOUTH WORK IRELAND WEEK

April 1-8, 2023

Celebrating Volunteers

www.youthworkireland.ie



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lápháirtíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth