



YELA

Young Equestrian Leaders Award



OVERVIEW

Bradbourne RDA Group is pleased to be able to offer its young volunteers the opportunity to take part in the YELA (**Young Equestrian Leaders Award**) program.

YELA is an exciting award that has been developed by Riding for the Disabled (RDA) for the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) in consultation with many of its Member Bodies to increase and encourage the number of young people volunteering in the Equestrian industry.

The award is open to all young people between the ages of 13 and 25 and runs over three progressive levels increasing from 20 hours to achieve the Bronze standard up to 120 hours to achieve the Gold Standard.

To start your work towards the award, all you need to do is complete our volunteer application form and return it to Liz Wrighton at the Bradbourne RDA office – volunteers@bradbourn-rda.org.uk. She will forward your form to RDA National office (RDA UK) and you will then be issued with a log book.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does the award cost anything?

It won't cost you anything as Bradbourne RDA will pay your costs.

Can I count hours I have already completed?

No, you can only count hours once you have submitted your application form.

How long will it take my log book to arrive?

We will endeavour to get your log book as quickly as possible but please allow about 2 - 3 weeks.

Do I have to be a competent rider or carriage driver?

No, any young person aged 13-25 can take part in the award and they do not have to ride or carriage drive.

Can I count my riding/driving/vaulting lesson towards my hours?

No, you can't count your lesson but if you are volunteering as a demonstration rider/driver for a lecture or demo at a BEF Member Body centre or event then you may be able to count that. You must notify the office before the event or else we will be unable to except it.

What is the aim of the award?

The award is aimed at encouraging more young people to volunteer across equestrian disciplines. With all equestrian sports relying on large numbers of volunteers each year it is important we get young people involved, as without them the sports will not be able to continue. By the time a young person reaches their Gold award we would be expecting them to be a competent and skilled volunteer and have some experience of what needs other BEF member bodies have for volunteers.

What do I have to do to complete the award?

To complete the Bronze award you must complete 20 hours of volunteering (evidenced in your Bronze award log book) with at least one BEF member body. Once completed you will be asked to submit answers to the Bronze level questions, these are questions about your volunteering experience. The questions will reflect the places and activities during your volunteering experience. Candidates must take at least 8 weeks to complete their Bronze award, they may take longer if they wish and they may do more than 20 hours within this time.

What will I receive for completing this award?

The candidate will receive a certificate, a Bronze level pin badge and the opportunity to purchase a specially designed YELA polo shirt. You will also be able to progress onto the silver award.

Where do the volunteering hours have to take place?

In the first instance you should begin your Bronze award within an environment that you already volunteer in or are familiar with. Voluntary hours may be made up from volunteering with any BEF Member Body and we actively encourage you to volunteer with several Member Bodies and in a variety of different roles, although for completion of the Bronze award volunteering with more than one Member Body is not essential.

Is there an exam?

There is no formal exam but to complete the award we do ask each candidate to submit answers to a range of questions relating to their volunteering experience.

I am currently volunteering for my Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award, can I use those hours of volunteering to count towards my Bronze award?

Yes, although no hours can be back dated you can count future DofE voluntary hours taking place at a BEF Member Body centre or event towards your Bronze award.

Are you on Facebook?

Yes, search for Young Equestrian Leader Award and you will find us.

So what do I do now?

Please fill out a volunteer application form and email a soft copy (a photo from a phone is fine) of it to Bradbourne RDA Group via volunteers@bradbourn-rda.org.uk.