



Youth Achievement Awards 2024

- Celebrating the achievements and talents of Young Pioneers

The Pioneer Youth Achievement Awards have been organised by the PTAA Diocesan Councils of the Elphin and Clonfert Diocese, with the support of The Order of The Knights of St. Columbanus, to celebrate the diversity of achievement, talent and goodness of Young Pioneer Youth Club members.

General Award Criteria

Nominations can be from Adult PTAA Youth Club Leaders for Young Pioneers aged 10-18 who attain a significant personal, group and / or club achievement during the first half of 2024.

Leaders must provide clear reasons why they are nominating Young Pioneers and provide concrete examples of their achievements on the official nomination form. Completed nomination forms must also communicate a connection between the achievement communicated and the general aims of the PTAA.

Nominations must be received by The Chairperson of the PTAA Diocesan Council before 17th February 2024 and Awards will be presented during PTAA celebrations on The Feast of the Sacred Heart, Friday June 7th 2024.

2024 Award Categories

1. Courage (individual & group award)

Undertake an activity that will require preparation and forward planning that you would find difficult but that you know would be helpful to or enjoyable for other people.

Examples: Read, sing or perform in public, visit an elderly person in a nursing home. Face one of your fears (with support), e.g. learn to cycle a bicycle, and share your experience at a club meeting later.

2. Servant Leadership

Actively help with the running of youth club meetings and other activities and in at least two activities that aim to contribute to the well being of other young people and / or adults.

Examples: Help with retreat day, help with Easter ceremonies in your parish, be a volunteer at a local Pioneer event or special workshop.

3. Spiritual Empathy (individual & group award)

Undertake a spiritual or religious activity that reflects your faith and love of God and your care and compassion for others. The activity must help others to feel happy and appreciated and remind them that we are loved by God.

Examples: Help organise a Holy Mass, prayer service, vigil or retreat day and assist during same.

4. Performance (individual and group awards)

Individual: Sing a song and a hymn or play two pieces of music, one of which is suited to a religious event, or read two readings or poems, one prepared in advance and the other unseen (with just a few minutes to prepare).

Group: Come up with a three-minute sketch that communicates a message to young people and perform same for your club. Dramatization of a sacred scripture passage during a prayer, retreat or religious education event may also serve as an activity for this award.

Performance can be at a club meeting or a public event.

5. Environmental Awareness (Group Award)

Identify and follow through on some way you can encourage others to live in a more eco-friendly way. A minimum of four hours must be devoted to this initiative.

Examples: Organise a showing of The Film *The Letter*, for other young people.
Help with a Trócaire initiative aimed at raising awareness.
Create a poster to encourage people to be eco-friendly.

6. Contribution to the wellbeing of other young people

Organise, plan and help run an event that will benefit other young people. The event must last for a minimum of one hour and have an educational value, a spiritual dimension and aim to help people to be happy.

Examples: Help run Drug Awareness workshop for young people.
Arrange for a guest speaker to speak with you and your friends on a topic relevant to all of you.

The same activity, with the prior consent of Youth Club Leaders and the PTAA Diocesan Councils, may be used for two or more awards.

Closing date for applications: Saturday 17th February 2024.