

WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER ENGINEER?



STEPS

A large central graphic consisting of a white circle with a red laurel wreath border. The text "STEPS YOUNG ENGINEERS AWARD" is centered within the circle in red capital letters. The background is teal with various colorful geometric shapes like circles and rectangles, and a pattern of small white dots.

STEPS
YOUNG
ENGINEERS
AWARD

A smaller, gold-colored award ribbon with a scalloped edge and a teal ribbon tail. It contains the text "For 3rd & 4th Class Primary School Students" in dark teal.

For 3rd & 4th
Class Primary
School Students

What is the **STEPS** Young Engineers Award?

The Young Engineers Award is a new competition for 3rd and 4th class primary school students to find talented young engineers across the country.



HOW IT WORKS

WE ARE ASKING: "HOW WILL YOU CHANGE YOUR WORLD?"

Teachers divide their class into small Engineering Teams. Each team comes up with a project of their own - we want the students to look around them in their community and think of something they would like to improve. The teacher guides the teams through their challenges using an engineering approach.

The engineering approach is set out in detail in the Teachers Pack. The teams submit 3 structured worksheets, including a Final Report for judgement before the deadline of 14th December.

AIMS

WE WANT YOUNG PEOPLE TO:

- be aware of the presence of engineering in their lives and community.
- take on an engineering challenge - to learn to analyse their work and come up with solutions.
- to get a flavour of a real engineering project - so they understand what an engineer does.
- learn to think critically, independently and practically.
- work in teams and communicate effectively.
- have fun and enjoy engineering!

WE WANT TEACHERS TO:

- learn about engineering.
- gain confidence discussing engineering.
- enjoy encouraging their class to think like an engineer.

VOLUNTEER ENGINEERS

A Volunteer Engineer visits a class at the 'Discussion Stage' of the project (STEP 5 above).

At this point the Engineering Teams have scoped the project in STEP 2, drawn their Final Design in STEP 3 and (should!) have commenced the 'Construction Phase': STEP 4.

This is the ideal window for the Teams to present their project to the class and to an Engineer Role Model. Each team gives short presentation on their project and their prototype and looks to the Volunteer Engineer for comment.

The idea is that the engineer does not instruct, but asks thoughtful questions to inspire the teams to think for themselves.



Volunteering with the STEPS Young Engineers Award

What's Involved?

The role of the Volunteer Engineer is to visit a 3rd or 4th primary school class which has entered the STEPS Young Engineers Award. At the visit the volunteer engineer will discuss engineering with the students, listen to the Engineering Teams' short presentations on their projects, ask helpful questions to get them thinking and, in turn, answer any questions they may have about engineering.

Time Required

Minimum: 5-7hrs (2hrs training in October, 1 2hr visit in November & travel time).

Want More? Volunteers are welcome to do more than one visit on this week.

Other fun opportunities: We will need Volunteer Engineers for the Live Webinars (for schools who cannot get a visit - on 15th November & 4th December) and to be part of the Judging Panel (judging takes place 29th January).

Eligibility

To volunteer for the STEPS Young Engineer Award 2018 you must be:

- a qualified engineer, a student studying engineering or be currently employed in an engineering role.
- 18 years or older.
- willing to attend 2 hour training session in October.
- available to visit a school on the week of 25th - 30th November.

Training

FAQ's

- **Who has to do it?** - All volunteers must complete a training session.
- **Where is it?** - Various locations throughout the country in October: Laois, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Donegal and Dublin. (Select session on registration).
- **When is it?** - All training is in October.
- **What if I can't make it?** - There are a number of options. You can arrange your own visit with a local school. You can volunteer to be part of one of our live webinars or to be on the judging panel.
- **I know how to do a school visit. Why do I need training?** - The training is principally to fill you in on the STEPS Young Engineer Award. We want all our volunteers to know about it, how it works and what message we want students to take away. We also want you to meet each other and to have fun.
- **Is that all?** - We will give out merchandise and volunteer t-shirts. Volunteers can see the list of available schools and can decide if they would like to group together for a visit. Resources will be available on completion of training.

School Visits

School visits take place 26th - 30th November.

This is the ideal time for engineers to talk to the class. Engineering Teams have developed their full designs at this point and have commenced building their prototypes. They know what an engineering project involves; they feel like real engineers and they are ready to discuss engineering and what an engineer does.

Once training is complete the volunteer indicates their preferred school to visit - we will do our best to match their choice. **For the Adventurous** - there is an 'Adventure Option' - the school is selected for the volunteer and they will go on an adventure somewhere in Ireland!

How to Apply

Applications are open from Wednesday 19th September September on www.steps.ie.



Benefits

Part of a nationwide community of volunteer engineers	● ● ● ● ●
Challenging and rewarding work	● ● ● ● ●
Inspiring children as a role model	● ● ● ● ●
Part of a new national engineering award	● ● ● ● ●
CPD credits	● ● ● ● ●
Fun - Group visits, 'Adventure Option', Volunteer Christmas Party	● ● ● ● ●

Timeline

SEPTEMBER

18th

Applications open at
www.steps.ie

From 26th

10 minute chat with
member of the STEPS
Team

NOVEMBER

26th - 30th

School Visits



JANUARY

29th

Judging



OCTOBER

6th - 22nd

STEPS Young Engineers
Award Volunteer Training



DECEMBER

5th

Volunteer Christmas Party,
Engineers Ireland.

MARCH

7th

Results Announced -
Engineers Week