



Rotary Club Of Grays Thurrock

Rotary **YOUNG** **PHOTOGRAPHER** **COMPETITION**



2026/27

INFORMATION PACK

Competition closing date Friday 12th February 2027

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Information Pack for 2026 – 2027

THEME – ‘Friendship’

The ‘Friendship Theme’ can be interpreted as broadly as the Young Photographer wishes and does not need to conform to a dictionary definition. Entrants are encouraged to use their creativity to show what this theme means to them.

Introduction

The Young Photographer Competition is a well-established and successful competition organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary GBI).

There are three stages to the competition, each designed to support and encourage the development of photographic skills. Some stages may have more than one round.

Aims and Objectives

The competition aims to encourage young people to:

- explore and develop their skills in photography
- use either digital and/or traditional methods of photography
- interpret the competition theme with creativity and insight
- communicate personal ideas and perspectives through photography

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all Thurrock schools and colleges and those home-educated, along with community organisations (e.g. Scout Groups, Girl Guides, Sea and Air Cadets, etc) and other young people living in the Borough of Thurrock.

There are three age groups:

Junior:	Up to and including 10 years old
Intermediate:	11 to 13 years old
Senior:	14 to 17 years old

Entrants must not be over the upper age parameter for each group on 31 August 2026. It should be noted that some junior entrants may be 11, intermediate entrants may be 14 and some senior entrants may be 18 at the time of some or all the stage competitions i.e. a competitor who may be 17 on 31st August but turns 18 on 1st September is allowed to enter. **Competitors must include their age on the application form.**

Competitors, schools, colleges, and organisations may participate in a competition held in a Rotary club/district outside of the borough of Thurrock but may compete in only one club/district event.

The Three Stages of the Competition

Local Heats

This local heat is organised by the 'Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock'.

Entrants need to complete and attach the correct entry form to their photograph and submit them to the event organiser, at youngphotographer@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk by **Friday 12th February 2027**. The results of this local competition will be published on our website, www.graysthurrockrotary.org.uk as soon as possible after the closing date.

The winners' work from our Thurrock wide event will be entered into the **Rotary District 1240 Competition** which is organised during March 2027. The winners of the district competition will then be entered into the **Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland National Final**. The results of this final will be available in May 2027.

Competition Guidelines

Task

To produce one photograph based upon the theme, '**Friendship**'. The photograph must be submitted via Digital Format (preferably jpg format) individually and to be at least 1500 pixel in size on the longest length. Mobile Phones may be used in addition to cameras.

Each entrant MUST provide a brief sentence describing the relationship of the artwork to the theme. This sentence must be entered on the entry form in the applicable place. Entries without this explanation will be disqualified.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Any photograph that forms part of a current educational exam portfolio is not eligible for entry due to exam board regulations
- If the photograph includes images of people under 18 or adults at risk, a completed signed consent form for each individual (available in this pack) **must** accompany the entry.
- Photographs must be submitted digitally in jpg format and be at least 1500 pixel in size on the longest length. The entry and supporting information should be sent electronically and **MUST NOT EXCEED 15Mb** per email.. Emails over this limit will be disqualified.
- Alternative options are to send the nomination and supporting information across several emails or contact Rotarian Derek Swan on youngphotographer@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk to organise a file transfer option.

Judges

Persons with appropriate skills, appointed by Rotary, will apply the judging criteria below.

Judging Criteria

Judges will consider..

- technical merit
- content and composition
- imagination and style
- relevance to the Theme

Only in exceptional circumstances and at the sole discretion of the competition organiser, will correspondence or discussions be entered into following the competition. Entrants accept that in all respects the judge's decisions are final.

Originality, Use of Artificial Intelligence, Plagiarism or Close Copying

Entries must be entirely the competitor's own original work and must match the theme of the competition. Plagiarised, copied, traced, close-copied, or AI-generated work is not permitted in any Rotary Youth Competition. It is important that we protect the work of creative individuals. While we are all inspired by the work of others, competitors must not use generative artificial intelligence (AI), or any app, tool or platform that creates, rewrites, edits, enhances or generates any part of the submission. The entry must be created solely by the competitor. For the purposes of these competitions, "close copying" means that, to a reasonable person, the entry appears remarkably similar in significant respects to work created elsewhere. Rotary reserves the right to investigate any entry where plagiarism, close copying or use of AI is suspected, and to disqualify any entry found to be in breach of this rule.

We are looking for original pieces, not copies, which match the theme of the competition

Prizes

The Thurrock winners in all categories will receive a certificate and a trophy along with a £50 Amazon voucher.

How to enter the Thurrock Local Competition

Entrants are required to complete an entry form and submit it with their photograph to our organiser at youngphotographer@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk to **arrive no later than Friday 12th February 2027.**

PLEASE NOTE:

Parents/Guardians may use the entry form to directly enter their child into this competition.

Rotary Youth Competitions

This Young Photographer competition is one of several competitions for young people organised by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland. The others are: Young Artist, Young Chef, Youth Speaks, , Young Musician, Young Writer, Technology Tournament, Youth Leadership Awards and Primary Mathematics. To find out more about these competitions and other opportunities please contact www.graysthurrockrotary.org.uk/

Working with Children

Rotary GB&I has adopted this statement of policy in working with children, vulnerable adults and those with disability:

The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of their ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact during their Rotarian duties.

Further information can be found at [Rotary GB&I Safeguarding Policy](#)

Privacy Notice – Youth Competitions

[For the purpose of this privacy notice, Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland (RIBI) also includes Rotary clubs and districts and their members. The use of the term 'you', 'your' also means that of your child where the competition Entrant is a minor, i.e. under the age of 18 years].

Members of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland ("we") value the trust you put in us to process your personal information and will always be open and honest about the information we collect and how we will use it. We will never do anything with your personal information that you wouldn't reasonably expect us to in relation to the Youth Competitions and we will take every effort to protect your privacy.

The RIBI Privacy Notice is available on our website, www.rotarygbi.org, and explains how we collect, process and share personal information. This 'Privacy Notice – Youth Competitions' is supplementary to the general RIBI Privacy Notice and explains in more detail how you can expect your personal information to be specifically used in relation to the Youth Competition events.

How we use your personal information for Youth Competitions

1. We are collecting your personal information (and that of your child if a minor) for the organisation and administration of the youth competitions only, it will not be used for any other purpose.
2. Club, District or Rotary Public Relations Officers may use your personal information to contact you to discuss public relation opportunities and will gain your specific consent at that time for the use of your information, such as photographs/interviews for newspaper articles, club or district websites etc. Where the entrant is a minor only the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Providing your personal information to others for Youth Competitions

3. The personal information will only be shared with others that require it for their role/the services they provide for the organisation and administration of the youth competition events. Initially, this will be at club level competitions but should an entrant progress to district or national levels of the competition, the information will also be shared with those relevant organisers.
4. Depending on the Youth Competition, it may be necessary to share some of your information with third parties such as providers of venue hire and catering services. Under such circumstances only the minimum amount of information for the third-party service will be provided, i.e. for caterers, only the name and allergy/special dietary requirement will be disclosed, no other information.
5. Those individuals and organisations that have access to personal information are also bound by the RIBI Privacy Notice.

Retaining and deleting your personal information

6. All reasonable steps will be taken by those concerned to ensure the personal information they have access to is kept securely and will not be shared with anyone who does not have a legitimate reason to have access to it in relation to the organisation and administration of the competitions.
7. For all youth competitions, personal information will be kept on file for 3 months after the date of the National Final for that specific competition. After this date, the information will be securely destroyed (either by shredding, incineration or deletion from electronic devices) at club, district and national level. This timeframe is necessary to allow for any disputes to be settled before personal information is destroyed.

By signing the front of the entry form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Privacy Notices in respect of the use of personal information for yourself (and your child, where applicable).

ENTRY CONDITION

Rotary respects your rights and does not claim copyright for works you submit to this contest. You will retain full copyright in each entry. In addition, your moral rights are respected. Whenever your work is published by **Rotary** (and its partners), you will be credited. Failure to publish a credit due to error or oversight shall not be deemed a breach of this condition.

By entering this contest, you agree that any (winning or shortlisted) work you submit may be used by **Rotary** (and its partners) solely for marketing and promotional purposes of this contest or future contests and for no other purpose.

You hereby grant **Rotary** a non-exclusive, irrevocable license in each entry throughout the world in all media for the issues described above for **3** years following the date of announcement of the winners.

Rotary organisers will do their best to look after your photographs but, by entering this competition, I accept that the organisers cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss to them.

Please note that photographs of people under 18 years old must be accompanied by written permission from the parent, guardian, carer or teacher for those in boarding school, of the person(s) photographed.

ENTRY FORM 2026/2027

Please read the Rotary Young Photographer Information Pack before completing this form. By signing this form, you confirm you have read, understood and agreed to the contents of the Information Pack and Privacy Notice. **Please return this completed form to youngphotographer@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk along with your photograph by Friday 12th February 2027.**

Important Notice: Please note that photographs of people under 18 years old must be accompanied by written permission/consent from the parent, guardian or carer of the person(s) photographed.

Entrant's Name: (please use CAPITAL letters)		Age on 31 st Aug 2026:	
School/College/Organisation:		Please tick category being entered: Junior ☐ Intermediate ☐ Senior ☐	
Camera/Mobile make & model			
Auxiliary lens and filters used (if applicable). Please state, whether or not the picture has been modified using editing software, such as Photoshop.			
Title of photograph with brief description of the relationship of the photograph to the "Friendship" theme.			

Parent/Guardian Contact Details (only to be completed by Parent/Guardian if Entrant is under the age of 18 years of age)

Parent/Guardian's Email:	Parent/Guardian's Tel No:
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Rotary Details

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock	District Number: 1240
Contact Rotarian. Derek Swan	youngphotographer@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk

Entrants under the age of 18 when this form is completed, must get a parent/guardian signature to give permission for the following (if the Entrant is 18 years of age when this form is completed, they are giving permission themselves):-

- for the named Entrant to take part and be identified in the competition.
- for the information on this form to be used for all stages of the competition (should the Entrant progress), and shared in accordance with the Privacy Notice with appropriate competition organisers at each stage.
- for Rotary, District or Club Public Relations Officers to make contact with the parent/guardian/entrant (where entrant is under 18 years of age) to discuss public relations opportunities.

By signing this form, you are also acknowledging that you have read and agreed the Privacy Notices referred to within this Information Pack in respect of the use of personal information. In addition, you agree with the Entry Conditions that for photographic/video records to be taken and used by Rotary Club of Grays for publicity purposes in printed, electronic and online formats.

*Parent/Guardian/Entrant (Print Name):	**Signature:	Date:

*delete as appropriate

**Entrant may only sign this form if they are 18 years of age on the date the Entry Form is signed

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland Youth Competitions consent form for use of images of young people under 18 years or adults at risk

Rotary GB&I Youth Competitions Entrant Name:

The young person named above is submitting an entry for the Rotary GB&I Youth Competitions 2026/27 and is requesting permission to use your image/s as part of their submission. This may mean that your image could be used by Rotary GB&I for the following purposes:

1. Rotary social media platforms
2. Rotary websites
3. Media coverage such as newspapers or other publications

Image Retention

Once shared, your image may continue to appear elsewhere depending on how it was used e.g. in newspaper articles, website, posters, etc. If shared with third parties their privacy policies will apply.

If you believe the image is being used inappropriately, please inform the sponsoring Rotary Club immediately.

Groups

A separate form must be completed for each young person or adult at risk whose image is being used.

Parent/Guardian/Carer Consent Statement

I give consent for the image of the person named below to be used by the Entrant for the purposes outlined above

Print FIRST name of child or adult at risk: _____

Parent/Guardian/Carer Signature: _____

Print Name of person signing: _____

Date: _____

Relationship to child or adult at risk: _____

Please attach this form to the competition submission that includes the image/s