

THE ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY

GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARD OF THE LONG SERVICE AWARD FOR FORESTERS AND WOODMEN

The Society has a Long Service Medal for woodland employees of RFS members who have worked for 30 years or more for the same employer or on the same estate. In-service training is included.

To be eligible, employees must be bona fide foresters, woodmen, forestry contractors or others working hands-on in woodland management. That might include coppice workers, charcoal burners, specialist timber drivers, mobile sawmillers, arborists and rangers.

Successful employees receive a bronze medal engraved with their name and the number of years' completed service. Bars can subsequently be added for each 10 years additional service. Medal holders receive an inscribed certificate commemorating the award.

Members who want to apply for a Long Service Medal for their employee or contractor should obtain, complete and return an application form on our website at www.rfs.org.uk/awards/rfs-long-service-award/ or from the Society's Headquarters at The Hay Barns, Home Farm Drive, Upton Estate, Banbury OX15 6HU; telephone: 01295 678588;

All applications must be vetted initially by the Society's Board of Trustees (which meets each February, June and October) and then reported at the next full Council meeting (March or November). The medals subsequently take 4-6 weeks to prepare.

All employers applying for this medal for their employees must be RFS members. In the case of an Estate, the membership must be in the name of the Owner or Estate itself, not the agent or head forester.

Forestry needs good publicity. Recognising a lifetime's dedication to safeguarding and modelling the country's woodlands should not go unnoticed. Presentation of an RFS Long Service Award is an excellent way of rewarding people for their dedication to the management of particular woodlands that many people take for granted.

Employers should be aware that the RFS expects its medal to be presented at an RFS field meeting, agricultural show or similar event, to be agreed in advance with the Society. It should not be presented at a private function except under agreed exceptional circumstances. This is a Royal Forestry Society Award, and should receive acknowledgement as such. In order to maximise publicity, the local press should be invited to the presentation, and photographs taken and sent to the RFS at Banbury for publication in the *Quarterly Journal of Forestry*.

Our experience is that despite initial reticence about public appearances, most woodmen and foresters who have received our medal do relish their moment of glory and their families, colleagues and employers welcome the chance to share in celebrating it with them.