

2026 SHELL NXPLORERS GLOBAL INSPIRATION AWARDS NOMINATION CRITERIA

SHELL NXPLORERS AWARD Outstanding Student Team

This award is to recognise the outstanding student teams who are an inspiring example of how young people can work together to solve real problems, by being collaborative and having a strong team dynamic.

What are we looking for in an Outstanding Student Team?

- **Teamwork:** All team members are involved and well engaged. All team members contributed and brought their different perspectives to the team. Provide an example of how they showed this.
- **Engagement:** Students are fully engaged with the issue they are addressing, demonstrating a willingness to learn more about it and incorporating their learning into their project. Provide an example of how they showed this.
- **Growth mindset:** The team showed evidence of learning from challenges and adapting their approach when needed to. Provide an example of how they showed this.
- **Ability to bring about change:** The team has developed a meaningful action plan and identified creative ways to engage with their community and to bring about positive change, with an example.

SHELL NXPLORERS AWARD Exceptional Student Project

This award is to recognise the exceptional projects with potential for impact in their community and on society. Please provide examples or evidence with your responses.

What are we looking for in an Exceptional Student Project?

- **Problem statement:** The issue chosen by the students addresses a complex problem: students are able to articulate the challenge and how it might relate to a real-world problem.
- **A new way of thinking:** The change project demonstrates relevant application of NXthinking tools. Provide examples of how tools were incorporated into the project and how NXthinking and/or tools helped decide the course of the project
- **Project delivery:** The change project has been developed and has potential for impact on community and society. The team has used their learnings to improve the project and share with others. Where possible, provide examples of feedback and support received from community members and/or other stakeholders
- **Innovative project:** The approach is interesting and stands out. The project addresses a key issue/concern/challenge using an innovative approach and the team has thought about how it could be achieved.
- **Sustainability and scalability of the project:** The project reflects a strong potential for long-term impact. It incorporates sustainable practices, considers social and/or environment implications, and is adaptable to evolving needs. The team has thought about how their solution could be scaled or replicated in other communities or contexts.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Excellence in Facilitation (delivery partner)

This award is to recognise the excellence in facilitation from the facilitators who are role models for their students and enable them to embrace complexity and overcome barriers. Please provide examples or evidence with your responses.

What are we looking for in Excellence in Facilitation in a (delivery partner) facilitator?

- **NXplorers tools and methodology:** Demonstrating excellence in their deep understanding of NXplorers methodology and NXthinking. Use of relevant real-world examples forms part of their delivery and they adapt to the participants' stage of development.
- **Strong facilitation skills:** Making sure that participants are consistently and actively engaged and comfortable in asking and answering questions in front of the wider group.
- **Inspiring young people:** Using coaching skills to encourage shifts in thoughts and perspectives in young people in a way that they feel engaged and motivated to take positive action.
- **Stakeholder management:** Creating a strong network of the NXplorers ecosystem that expands the reach of the programme beyond the school community.
- **Leadership:** Going beyond the call of duty to ensure that students and teachers are supported in all circumstances.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Inspiring Mentor

The award is to recognise the inspiring (Shell NXplorers) mentors who go the extra mile to enthuse and empower the young people they support on their Shell NXplorers journey. Please provide examples or evidence with your responses.

What are we looking for in an Inspiring Mentor?

- **Coaching:** Good coaching and listening skills.
- **Agency:** Giving the students agency to own their project and come up with solutions to challenges.
- **Inspiring students:** Supporting and motivating students to embrace complexities and take on real world challenges.
- **Support:** Encouraging students by sharing their experience and knowledge and guiding them to the right resources.
- **Building trust:** Having two-way conversations, being positive and encouraging.
- **Commitment:** Being dedicated and available to support students in a flexible and responsive manner.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD Incredible Teacher

This award is to recognise the teachers who go above and beyond to embed Shell NXplorers thinking into their classrooms and school culture, creating a lasting impact on their students and wider learning community. Please provide examples or evidence with your responses.

What are we looking for in an Incredible Teacher?

- **Embedding NXthinking:** The teacher integrated NXplorers tools and methodology into their regular teaching practice and curriculum planning.
- **Student empowerment:** They created opportunities for students to lead, explore, and take ownership of their learning and change projects.
- **Sustained impact:** Their efforts have led to long-term engagement with NXplorers in their school or community.
- **Collaboration and sharing:** They actively collaborate with other educators and share best practices to grow the NXplorers movement.
- **Creative teaching practice:** They use innovative and engaging approaches to bring NXthinking to life in the classroom.