QUESTION OF THE WEEK, WEEK 37–38 (9–20.9.2026)

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 93

The margin of error is 10 % and can to a certain extent be considered to reflect the opinions of the population in Jakobstad.

YOUTH GALA

In the Question of the Week the residents were asked: "In 2026 the youth council in Jakobstad is celebrating its 20-year anniversary. To celebrate this, we have decided to organise a gala to highlight actors in the town who work in various ways for the benefit of young people.

The gala is being held on Friday 9 October at 18.00 in the Schauman Hall. Among other things, we will be enjoying music and dance performances from young people in the town as well as other fun programmes. There will also be food during the evening.

At the gala a total of 8 awards in different categories will be presented to people, organisations, or associations working for the young people in the town. All the residents of the town will now have the chance to nominate who they think should receive an award.

1. The youth friendly company of the year - A company that in some way has worked for young people to have a chance to get into working life or enjoy their job.

2. The youth of the year - A young person in the town who has been working for the benefit of other young people.

3. The young artist of the year - A young person who has contributed to youth enjoying themselves and feeling well in Jakobstad through their art.

4. The young entrepreneur of the year - A young person who has started a company and actively has been working in the company.

5. The adult in school of the year - An adult in school who has contributed to the pupils enjoying school and feeling well.

6. The young musician of the year - A young person who has contributed to the well-being of the young people through their music.

7. Youth initiative of the year - An initiative that in some way has contributed to the youth enjoying themselves and to their well-being in the town or an initiative that in some other way has improved the status of the youth in Jakobstad.

8. The investment of the year on young people's health - An investment that has improved the well-being of the youth in Jakobstad."

NEXT STEP

A total of 93 nominations has been received, which the Youth Gala planning group will shortlist to four nominees in each category. The final decision on the winners will be made by the Culture and Leisure Section at its meeting on 6 October 2026, but the winners will not be announced publicly until the Youth Gala.

If you are interested in finding out how your nominee performed in the voting, you are warmly welcome to attend the Youth Gala on Friday, 9 October 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Schauman Hall.

More information:

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UP-DATE 9.10.2026

Decision of the Culture and Leisure Section, 6 October 2026, § 37. Published on 9 October at 18:00.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Nestor Räikkönen

Background: Räikkönen's snack service.

"Nestor is a deserving young entrepreneur who founded his company while still in upper secondary school and has continued to develop it. He is goal-oriented, independent, and enterprising. He does not give up but finds solutions to problems. He dares to stand out and follow his own path."

Youth of the Year

Leopold Broo

A great role model and a trusted presence for young people through his leadership and commitment to the activities of the Swedish Parish of Jakobstad, including serving as a youth leader assistant.

Young Artist of the Year

Markus Vestersund

Young Visual Artist of the Year

Milo Eklund

Studies in the visual arts programme at upper secondary school. Milo is a skilled artist and illustrator who actively shares his work on social media and YouTube, where several of his videos have received more than 1,000 views. He is a unique artist who is passionate about his art and eager to share it with others.

Youth-Friendly Company of the Year

Oy Snellman Ab

Youth Initiative of the Year

Kom In

A meeting place for young people in Jakobstad where they can meet, socialize, and participate in various activities. The service provides a safe environment where young people can spend time together. Many young people visit Kom In on weekends when it is open.

Safe Adult in School of the Year

Oxhamns School
Albert "Abbe" Thingdee – a fantastic and highly appreciated school coach at Oxhamns School.

Etelänummi School
Juho Puupponen, physical education teacher, also at the upper secondary school.

Youth Health Initiative of the Year

After Eight's Outreach Youth Work

Intended for young people and young adults who need support in different areas of life. The service is aimed, among others, at young people aged 15–28 and can help with finding a place to study or work, completing applications, finding housing, or reviewing and improving their personal financial situation.