



2016 Serve Indiana Awards for Excellence Categories and Guidelines

Awards may be presented to nominees in eight categories for significant service contributions. Because the goal of the Serve Indiana Awards for Excellence is to recognize outstanding and extraordinary volunteer service efforts, the judging panel reserves the right to award one or more honorees in a category. The panel may also opt not to issue awards in a category.

Except for the Lifetime Achievement award, nominees for all organization and individual categories must have performed their service activities during the last three years, with significant service activities occurring during the past year (2015).

NOMINATION ELIGIBILITY:

- Any Indiana resident or Indiana based organization (or Indiana office of a national or regional organization).
- Only one individual or organization may be nominated per nomination form.
- Any individual or group may nominate one or more individuals or organizations.
- An individual may nominate a relative or him/herself.
- Volunteer service demonstrated must not support a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- An individual or organization may only be nominated in one category.
- *Award finalists will be subject to a vetting process, which includes a criminal background check. Upon notification of being a finalist, potential awardees will be required to submit additional relevant information which may include date of birth and social security number.*

CATEGORIES:

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Faith-based Service Award:
- National Service Award
- Volunteer Award
- Youth Service Award (Under 18 years old)
- Lifetime Achievement Award

GROUP AWARDS:

- Volunteer Program Award
- Corporate Service Award
- Service Learning Award

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

Faith-based Volunteer: Any individual whose service is provided at an organization that self-identifies as faith-based, including, but not limited to, places of worship and other faith-based social service providers is eligible for this award.

National Service Member: Any National Service member serving in a position supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) at the time of nomination is eligible for this award. This includes AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America participants. This award is not intended for supervisors/directors of National Service members/programs.



Volunteerism: Any individual 18 years or over by November 1, 2016 is eligible for this award. Individuals who serve primarily in a faith-based organization could be considered in this category or the faith-based category, but not both.

Youth Volunteer: Any individual who is under that age of 18 by November 1, 2016 is eligible for this award. Individuals who serve primarily in a faith-based organization could be considered in this category or the faith-based category, but not both.

Lifetime Achievement Volunteer: Any individual who has exhibited a lifetime commitment to service in their communities, primarily in Indiana, is eligible for this award. While there is no minimum age or years of service requirement, most nominees have contributed a minimum of 25 years of service to their community through volunteer positions. This should not include employment in a public service position.

Volunteer Program: Any schools, faith-based organizations, mentoring programs, nonprofit organizations, and service clubs are all potential nominees for this award. The extraordinary work volunteers accomplish in communities is often driven by an organization or club. This award acknowledges the importance this support can make in community life. The nominees in this category strive to make communities better places to live through a variety of activities or by focusing on one issue of primary importance in their community.

Corporate Volunteer: Any business with a significant presence in Indiana that has made a substantial positive impact in Hoosier communities through contributions of time and talent is eligible for this award. The nomination must demonstrate an ongoing community or statewide impact through corporate volunteerism and/or philanthropy.

Exemplary Service Learning: Any business with a significant presence in Indiana that has made a substantial positive impact in Hoosier communities through contributions of time and talent is eligible for this award. The nomination must demonstrate an ongoing community or statewide impact through corporate volunteerism and/or philanthropy.

Review & Notification Process:

All nominations go through an extensive review process that involves a volunteer Peer Review Panel and Serve Indiana staff members. All nomination forms and supplementary information become the property of the Serve Indiana and the respective selection committee and cannot be returned.

If a nominee is selected as a Serve Indiana Award for Excellence finalist, the nominator and the nominee will be notified by September 5, 2016. **Award finalists will be subject to a vetting process, which includes a criminal background check. Upon notification of being a finalist, potential awardees will be required to submit additional relevant information which may include date of birth and social security number. Failure to provide the requested information will result in disqualification.**

If a nominee is not selected, the nominator and nominee will be notified by email.

If you have any questions about the deadline or nomination process, please call 317-233-4273 or email swilliams@serveindiana.gov.

Best of luck!

Serve Indiana