



AmeriCorps

2024 Governor's Service Awards



Serve Wisconsin is proud to present the annual **Governor's Service Awards** to honor outstanding national service participants, volunteers and programs that have met the pressing needs in their communities and enriched lives throughout Wisconsin. Nominations for the 2024 Governor's Service Awards will be due by midnight on Monday, March 18.

Recipients will be honored at the Governor's Service Awards ceremony on May 15, 2024, at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI.

Recognition Categories

For people serving or programs operating in Wisconsin between 1/1/23 and 5/31/24, except for the AmeriCorps Alumni, AmeriCorps Seniors Lifetime Volunteer, and Marty Stein award categories.

★ **Volunteer of the Year (may present multiple awards to recognize service in different types/categories of volunteer service across the state)**

A volunteer who has made significant contributions to Wisconsin over the course of the year, through their service at a nonprofit, tribal entity, faith-based institution, school, or governmental agencies. Those completing the nomination will have the opportunity to identify what types/categories of service the nominee has done for recognition, including Animals, Arts/Culture/Community Events, Conservation/Environment, Education, Economic Security, Medical/Health/Wellness, Nonprofit Support, Veterans, and Youth Volunteer.

★ **AmeriCorps Member of the Year**

An AmeriCorps member who has made significant contributions to Wisconsin over the course of the year through their service efforts with AmeriCorps or AmeriCorps VISTA.

★ **AmeriCorps Program of the Year**

An AmeriCorps program that has made significant contributions to Wisconsin over the course of the year through their service efforts. *Programs that received this award from 2020 to 2023 are not eligible to receive the award.*

★ **AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year**

A former AmeriCorps member (State, National, VISTA, or NCCC) who has made significant contributions to the state of Wisconsin in the years following the conclusion of their term of service with AmeriCorps. *AmeriCorps Alumni nominees must have completed their most recent term of service before September 1, 2020.*

★ **AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year**

An AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer who has made significant contributions to Wisconsin over the course of the year through their service efforts and using their invaluable skills and experience.

★ **AmeriCorps Seniors Lifetime Impact Volunteer**

An AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer who has made significant contributions to Wisconsin through at least 15 years of volunteer service (as of May 31, 2024) through AmeriCorps Seniors.

★ **AmeriCorps Seniors Program of the Year**

An AmeriCorps Seniors program that has made significant contributions to Wisconsin over the course of the year through their service efforts. *Programs that received this award from 2020 to 2023 are not eligible to receive the award.*

★ **Marty Stein Friend of National Service Exemplary Supporter**

An exemplary supporter – individual or organization – of a national service program in Wisconsin, whether that support is monetary, in-kind, or volunteer time. The late Mr. Stein was the first President of the Serve Wisconsin Board.

In addition to these nomination-based awards, the Governor's Service Awards will also recognize all AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers who will have reached their 20th year of volunteer service between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024. These recognitions do not require submitting a full nomination form. Names for eligible AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers can be submitted by their program directors directly to Serve Wisconsin by emailing Kyle Clower at kyle.clower@wisconsin.gov.

Nomination Form Sections and Scoring Criteria

The online form will ask those submitting nominations to provide contact information for the nominee and themselves and to complete the five prompts listed below describing the service done by the nominee, with the opportunity to also upload additional supporting materials. Nominations will be scored on "Excellence in Performance" (50% of score – Prompts 1 and 2) and "Impacts of Service" (50% of score – Prompts 3 and 4). Scores are based upon the service descriptions provided for the required application prompts, with the ability to submit supporting documents to bolster the responses to the prompts and provide additional information or anecdotes.

Contact Information

Information requested in this section includes Name, Organization, Address, Email, and Phone Number for both the nominee and the person submitting the nomination.

Prompts Describing the Service of the Nominee

Within this section, describe why the nominee should be honored with a Governor's Service Award as the most outstanding person/program in their category by answering the prompts below. The first prompt is a brief, 100 words or less, unscored description of the community needs the nominee is addressing to provide background for the application reviewers. Responses to the remaining four prompts should each be 300 words or less and will be used directly for scoring by the application reviewers. Please include specific information to demonstrate what makes the nominee and their service unique/extraordinary and deserving of recognition.

RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS (not scored – background information only)

- ★ Describe the community needs that the nominee addressed through their service
(100 words or less)

SCORED PROMPTS (25% of total score each)

Describe how the nominee has demonstrated excellence in their service performance and how the service provided by the nominee has impacted recipients, the community, and/or their organization in meaningful ways. Each prompt should be answered in 300 words or less.

- ★ **PROMPT #1** - How does the nominee bring an outstanding passion or commitment to making a difference to their service and/or how did the nominee overcome personal, logistical, systemic, or other unique challenges to perform their service? (300 words or less)
- ★ **PROMPT #2** - How did the nominee create new or use exemplary approaches in performing/structuring their service and/or go above and beyond the requirements and expectations of their role/position while performing their service? (300 words or less)
- ★ **PROMPT #3** - What specific or measurable results demonstrate the impact of the service done by the nominee and/or how did the nominee meet community needs through their service? (300 words or less)
- ★ **PROMPT #4** - What stories/anecdotes demonstrate the qualitative impact of the service done by the nominee and/or what is different/changed as a result of their service? (300 words or less)

Supporting Materials (Optional)

You may also include a limited number of supporting materials that address the topics within these prompts by providing additional or bolstering information. Letters of recommendation and other documents do not need to address each prompt.

- ★ Supporting materials (letters of support, news clippings, photographs, brochures, video links, etc.) are permitted to provide additional detail and support but are limited to five (5) pages of text and ten (10) images.
- ★ Supporting materials are not required and there is no expectation of them being extensive (simply providing caps on these submissions)
- ★ Please submit supporting materials as either a Word document, PDF, or shared Google Doc, with images shared either as a JPEG, PNG, or GIF, combined into a single document, or through a shared link from Google Drive.

Submitting Nominations, Eligibility, and Selection Process

Accessing and Submitting the Nomination Online

- ✦ Nominations can be submitted through the online nomination form, which can be accessed by:
 - Direct link to application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WI2024GSA>
 - Via link posted on the Governor's Service Awards website:
<https://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov/governors-service-awards>
- ✦ The information provided in the nomination statement and supporting materials may be used in recognition announcements, press releases, and other publicity materials.
- ✦ Nominations must be submitted by **Monday, March 18, 2024**:
 - If you do not receive a confirmation email that your nomination was received within two working days, please send a follow-up email to confirm your nomination was received

Nomination Eligibility

- ✦ Individuals may submit a nomination for more than one person or program.
- ✦ Individuals may submit a nominee for consideration in multiple categories if applicable.
- ✦ Self-nominations are welcome by individuals or programs.
- ✦ Employees and board members of Serve Wisconsin are not eligible to receive recognition or make nominations.
- ✦ Please be mindful of specific eligibility requirements for certain award categories, including the number of years served, the number of years since completing service, the exclusion period before a previously recognized program can be honored again, and volunteer service categories.

Selection Process

- ✦ Serve Wisconsin will appoint review panels for the selection of winners, with reviewers not scoring for categories/individuals where they have a conflict of interest.
- ✦ Nominations will be scored based on the responses to the four scored prompts (25% each), with strong applications addressing the questions within these categories with supporting details and compelling descriptions in the application form and/or the supporting materials.
- ✦ The goal of the Governor's Service Awards is to recognize outstanding service efforts; therefore, recognition may not be given in all categories.
- ✦ Only one award is expected to be made for most nomination categories; no nominee may receive more than one award (if nominated in multiple categories), and the decisions of Serve Wisconsin are final.
- ✦ Honorees should be notified no later than April 11, 2024.

For more information

To learn more about the [Governor's Service Awards](https://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov/governors-service-awards), including information about previous award recipients, please visit <https://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov/governors-service-awards>.

If you have any questions about the nomination process or need any assistance in submitting your nomination, please contact *Kyle Clower* at 608-576-5373 or kyle.clower@wisconsin.gov.



Serve Wisconsin
101 E. Wilson St., 6th Floor
Madison, WI 53703
www.servewisconsin.wi.gov
ServeWisconsin@wisconsin.gov

