

The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

Building Stronger Communities Through Service

2010 Nomination Form and Application Guidelines

The bipartisan, Governor-appointed Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service presents "The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards." These awards recognize individual volunteers and volunteer programs through a statewide award program to highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in the State of Illinois.

Individual awards will be provided to one Youth (18 & under), one Adult (19-54 yrs.) and one Retiree/Senior (55+ yrs.) in each of the Commission's five service regions across the state (Northeast, Northwest, East Central, West Central and Southern Illinois). Within each age category, the categories below will be given special priority, in alignment with priority areas as defined by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Priority Areas

Economic Opportunity

Education

Environmental Conservation

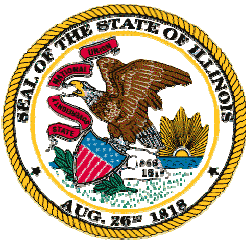
Health

Veterans Affairs

A panel of judges from across the state, comprised of Governor-appointed commissioners, will select the award recipients. Nominations will be accepted through **March 19, 2010** by **5:00 PM CST** at the address below. The winners will be notified no later than April 2, 2010. The Governor and Serve Illinois Commission will host a luncheon at the Executive Mansion in Springfield, Illinois to honor the 1st Annual, Governor's Volunteer Service Award recipients and the organization they serve on April 12, 2010.

How to Nominate: Submit one complete and typed application form and mail, email, fax, or hand deliver to:

Serve Illinois Commission
Attn: Volunteer Service Awards Committee
Illinois Department of Human Services
535 West Jefferson Street, 3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62702
800.592.9896 - phone
217.557.0515 - fax
DHS.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov



Guidelines and Application Instructions

Guidelines:

- Volunteers may be nominated by an individual, organization, or may nominate themselves.
- Volunteer service must be performed in Illinois and may not include hours served as part of academic credit or court-ordered community service.
- Nominee's volunteer organization must serve the community at large (not limited to its own members).
- Nomination essay questions must be limited to the word count provided (200 words each).
- In the event a nominee is submitted multiple times, the review panel will consider only the first nomination form submitted.
- The Commission reserves the right to award one or more honorees and reserves the right to withhold distribution of an award if the Commission deems it appropriate.
- Any youth, adult, group or business compensated by salary or any other means from the organization that benefit from their services is not eligible to receive an award.
- A member of National Service programs in Illinois (e.g. AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps*VISTA, AmeriCorps National Direct, AmeriCorps*NCCC, or Senior Corps programs such as RSVP, FGP, and SCP) is eligible only in the National Service category (*not available in Spring 2010 round of applications*).
- Previous winners are not eligible for nomination again.
- Serve Illinois staff and members of the Serve Illinois Commission are not eligible to receive an award, or to nominate their own volunteers for awards
- Entries are received in confidence, are scored blindly by a team of commissioners, and become the property of the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service and will not be returned.
- Please do not submit any attachments, photos, videos, news clips, etc., unless requested by the Commission. This completed form is all that is required for nomination.

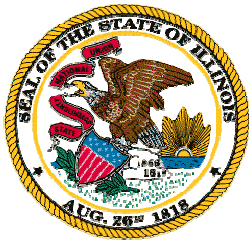
Judging Criteria:

- Need: Evidence that the nominee's volunteer service helped fill a specific need in the community.
- Action: Evidence that the nominee was actively involved and took initiative.
- Innovation: Evidence that the nominee used creative methods to solve community problems.
- Impact: Evidence that the activity or service produced positive changes and provided an example to others.

Essay Requirements:

Responses may not exceed **200 words per answer** (total essay not to exceed 800 words). Additional materials will not be considered. Questions cover the following topics:

1. **Community Need**
2. **Impact**
3. **Innovation**
4. **Sustainability**



Application

Nominee Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

County: _____ Date of Birth (mm/dd/yr): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Where Service Performed:

Organization: _____

Immediate Supervisor: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

Time Served (days/mos/yrs): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Nominator Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

County: _____ Years known nominee: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Are you the immediate supervisor of the volunteer being nominate? ___ Yes ___ No

* If not, immediate supervisor is: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Select one category in which the nominee’s volunteer service most closely aligns:

Education

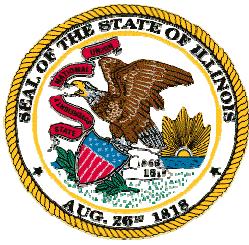
Environmental Conservation

Health

Veteran’s Affairs

Economic Opportunity

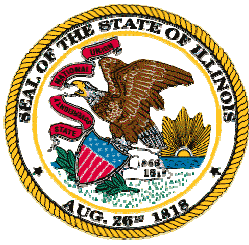
- **Economic Opportunity:** volunteer service relating to the enhancement of economic opportunity for Illinois citizens, in order to move economically disadvantaged individuals and families toward increased self-sufficiency and independence.
- **Education:** volunteer service in public or private school systems or community-based learning programs at all levels.
- **Environmental Conservation:** volunteer service including environmental education, public awareness, protection and/or enhancement of natural resources and the environment.
- **Health:** volunteer service providing physical, mental and/or emotional health care, preventive health care, and/or substance-abuse rehabilitation.
- **Veteran’s Affairs:** volunteer service addressing the needs of Illinois’ veterans, current members of the Armed Forces, and/or service members’ families while they are on active duty.



Please complete the final questions and limit your responses to 200 words for each question.

Community Need(s): How has the nominee met an identified community need through volunteer service? (i.e. briefly describe the community need and the type of volunteer activity undertaken to meet the need(s))

Impact: What was the impact of the nominee's volunteer service on the community? (i.e. scope of services, short- or long-term efforts, and any measurable or demonstrated results from the volunteer's service)



Innovation: What innovative approach did the nominee take to meet the need(s) of the community? (i.e. what makes this nominee different, or special, in the method and strategy of volunteer service utilized?)

Sustainability: What steps has the nominee taken to assure continued service delivery in the community?