



Volunteer Iowa
321 E 12th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
volunteerIowa.org

IOWA VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN
VOLUNTEERING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
Established 1989

All nomination materials must be submitted or postmarked by January 21, 2026. Late, incomplete, or misdirected submissions will not be accepted. Questions? E-mail info@volunteerIowa.org or call 800.308.5987.

ELIGIBILITY

- You can nominate anyone in Iowa who is actively helping others through volunteer service. This includes individuals, families or groups, organizations or nonprofits, businesses or corporations, and national service members (current or alumni). We gladly accept posthumous nominations.
- Nominees must be doing volunteer work that helps their community, state, country, or even the world. Their service should be outside of their regular job duties. National service members can be nominated for going above and beyond in their assigned roles.
- You cannot nominate:
 - Past Hall of Fame inductees (click here to access [the full list of inductees](#))
 - Current staff or commissioners of Volunteer Iowa
 - Employees of the Governor's Office

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR NOMINATION

To be considered, your nomination must include:

- A completed nomination form
- At least one letter of recommendation
- One photo of the nominee (.jpg or .png format)

Do not include CDs, DVDs, newspaper clippings, notebooks, or other extra materials.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

The nomination should describe the nominee's volunteer work in four key areas:

1. **Community Needs and Solution** — What problem did the nominee help solve? Did their work lead to lasting change?
2. **Connection Building** — How did the nominee help bring people together? Did they connect with groups outside their own organization?
3. **Impact** — What specific impacts did their work have? Did they improve lives or communities in a meaningful way?
4. **Service Involvement** — How much time was spent volunteering and leading the impacts? Did they use creative or new ways to solve problems?

SELECTION AND RECOGNITION

A panel of experts in volunteering will review all nominations and choose the honorees. Those selected will receive a letter from the Governor's Office inviting them to a special ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol. Their names will be added to the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame plaque at the State Historical Museum.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION

We recommend writing your nomination in a Word document first. This helps you organize your thoughts and avoid losing work due to internet issues. You can submit your nomination in one of three ways:

- 1. Online (Preferred):** visit volunteerioda.org for the nomination form and instructions.
- 2. By Email:** Send your materials to info@volunteerioda.org
Include "ATTN: Hall of Fame" in the subject line.
Attach your nomination as a Word or PDF file, plus a photo (.jpg or .png).
- 3. By Mail:** Send your nomination and photo to:
Volunteer Iowa
ATTN: Volunteer Hall of Fame
321 E 12th St
Des Moines, IA 50319

IOWA VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

PART I: NOMINEE INFORMATION

Category (SELECT ONE):

- Individual (one person, living or deceased)
- Group (two or more members of a family, or representatives of an organization, nonprofit, business, or corporation. Volunteer activities must have been completed together as a team.)

Nominee Name: _____
EXACTLY as it is to appear on the award plaque if they are selected.

Nominee Mailing Address: _____

Nominee City, State, Zip Code: _____

Contact Person (required if nomination is for a Group):

Contact should NOT be the person submitting the nomination. Leave this field blank if nominating an individual.

Nominee's County of Residence: _____
Or indicate that nominee is a statewide organization.

Nominee's Length of Service (number of YEARS this nominee has served). Be specific. It's acceptable to estimate, but do not use terms like "many" or "countless": _____

Nominee's Daytime Phone Number (include area code): _____

Nominee's (or contact person's) E-mail Address: _____

PART II: NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Organization/Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, ZIP Code: _____

Daytime Phone Number (include area code): _____

E-mail Address: _____

PART III: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Provide brief but specific information to address each of the essay questions. Every component of each question must be answered. There is a word limit for each question. **Use specific examples** to illustrate the scope and extent of the nominee's volunteer activities.

Summary — Provide a brief statement describing the nominee's history with volunteering, and why they are worthy of being selected for the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame. (100 words or fewer)

Community Needs and Solution — Describe how the nominee's actions met or solved a real community need. Include specific information about how the activities led to a long-term solution. *Note: Volunteer Hall of Fame defines "community" broadly as that which benefitted from the nominee's service. Eligible service may occur at local, regional, state, national OR international levels.* (500 words or fewer)

Connection Building — Provide examples of how the nominee demonstrated hands-on service to build connections between the community and those who might be isolated from it. Explain if and how activities served those who are disconnected from the larger community. Explain if and how connections were made with groups beyond the agency for which the volunteer worked. (500 words or fewer)

Impact — List or describe the impact and benefits achieved because of the activities and efforts of this nominee (changes in the economy, environment, or social conditions). List or describe examples of the nominee's impact- e.g. funds raised, volunteers trained or recruited, partners established, programs created, people or communities served. Be as specific as possible. (500 words or fewer)

Service Involvement — Describe the nominee’s level of involvement in the activities and impacts listed in the previous sections. Was the amount of time spent significant? Include examples of how the nominee’s service showed innovation or unique approaches to addressing social challenges. (500 words or fewer)

Additional Recognition — Has the nominee received other recognition or awards for their volunteer activities? (i.e., Governor’s Volunteer Award, Daily Points of Light Award, President’s Volunteer Service Award, local volunteer award, etc.).

Yes (please explain)

No

Unknown

PART IV: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (*minimum of one, maximum of three*)

From someone familiar with the nominee who can verify the scope and extent of their volunteer service activities (letter cannot come from the nominee or a relative). Letters to “Dear Selection Committee,” must include the full name, organization, e-mail address and daytime phone number of the person submitting the letter, and should address the following:

- How long and in what ways have you known the nominee?
- Why do you think this nominee is worthy of being selected for the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame?
- What would you like the selection committee to know about this nominee and their efforts that’s not included elsewhere in the nomination form?

LETTER(S) MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE NOMINATION FORM AND NOT SENT SEPARATELY.

ASSURANCE

I hereby certify that the information being submitted is an accurate representation of the service performed by the nominee.

Nominator’s Signature: _____

Nominator’s typed or printed name: _____ Date: _____

Don’t forget! You need to include a good quality photo with your submission.