



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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January 10, 2012

Dear Friends:

As the new year begins, we ask that you think of your friends, neighbors, coworkers and colleagues and then ask yourself if any of these individuals have served their fellow Kentuckians in an exceptional manner during the past year. If so, please consider nominating them for the 2011 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service.

In Kentucky, service to others is part of our rich culture and heritage and holds various meanings. To some folks, service is outreach; while to others, it is mission-driven and based on volunteerism or ministry. Some regard service as a calling.

There are many Kentuckians who serve every day, every month, or every year through faith-based organizations and as volunteers for community groups, addressing a variety of unmet critical needs. These individuals deserve our sincere admiration and gratitude.

Since 1994, the Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service steadfastly have shone a light on adults and youth who serve their fellow Kentuckians in extraordinary fashion, without expectation of reward, commendation, or compensation. Once again, the Governor's Awards will be presented to a group of Kentuckians who exemplify the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor.

The categories for these volunteerism and service awards include individuals or groups -- adults or youth. Multiple nominations may be submitted. More information is enclosed, including criteria for each award category and is also available online at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

Thank you for your participation in this worthwhile effort to honor Kentuckians from across the Commonwealth. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service at (800) 239-7404.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven L. Beshear".

Steven L. Beshear

Enclosure

Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service

2011 General Information and Category Criteria

The Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service, administered by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS), celebrate the volunteer and service efforts of thousands of Kentuckians. The 2011 awards will be presented at a ceremony in spring 2012.

Eligibility

- Individuals and groups may be nominated in only **one** category. Self-nominations are accepted.
- Members and staff of the KCCVS, its awards committee and judges are not eligible to nominate or be nominated.
- Individuals or groups who volunteer as part of work-release and/or for course credit are eligible. However, they may not receive compensation other than reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses to be eligible for this awards program.
- Programs using "living allowances" (such as AmeriCorps) are eligible.
- A member of National Service programs in Kentucky (e.g. AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, Senior Corps programs such as RSVP, FGP and SCP) is eligible only in the National Service category.
- Governor's Award recipients from the previous five years are ineligible for the 2011 awards program. A list of the previous award recipients can be found on the KCCVS website, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.
- With the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Volunteer Coordinator Award, nominations must **focus** on service activities that occurred in 2011.
- With the exception of the Kentucky Ambassador Award, volunteer service must have been performed in **Kentucky**, serving primarily Kentuckians.

Judging

- A panel of judges with significant experience in volunteerism and/or service carefully reviews every application.
- In the event a nominee is submitted multiple times, the judging panel considers the average score of all nominations.
- Staff reserves the right to reassign a nomination to a more appropriate category. (Nominators will be contacted for approval.)
- Judges may opt not to issue awards in every category.
- Award winners are based on the highest average scores out of 100 possible points.
- Points are deducted for incomplete nomination forms, narratives that exceed the word count and/or improper attachments.
- Decisions of judges are final.

General Information

- The nomination form and other information is available on the KCCVS website, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.
- Nominators will be notified of the results of their nominee(s).
- KCCVS makes every effort to invite Governor Steve Beshear to the awards ceremony to recognize awardees. However, Governor Beshear's attendance is not guaranteed.
- Information from nominations may be released to the media and elected officials.
- Nomination packets must be received or postmarked by **Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2011**.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Awards Categories and Criteria

Senior Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes an individual (ages 65 and older) who has met a community need in an innovative and effective manner. The nominee may have demonstrated exceptional ability and have made a great impact through changed lives and/or community conditions as a result of service efforts.

Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes an individual who has met a community need in an innovative and effective manner. The nominee may have demonstrated exceptional ability and have made a great impact through changed lives and/or community conditions as a result of service efforts.

Youth Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes a youth (age 18 or younger) who has demonstrated significant contributions to volunteer efforts/programs. The nominee may serve as a role model and inspiration to other volunteers.

Group Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes a group of individuals or organizations that come together on their own to make a difference in their community. This may be a one-time service project or ongoing effort.

Challenge Award: Recognizes an individual who has overcome significant personal obstacles in order to engage in volunteer service. These obstacles may include anything from physical and/or mental challenges to significant time constraints.

Volunteer Coordinator Award: Recognizes a paid or volunteer manager who exemplifies solid volunteer management skills, such as in volunteer training, risk management, screening, recognition, evaluation and retention of volunteers.

National Service Award: Recognizes an individual member and/or group of members of a National Service program (AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC or Senior Service Corps) who have demonstrated service beyond standard expectations of the designated program. This individual and/or group provides an extraordinary example of the AmeriCorps spirit.

Corporate Award: Recognizes a business that has made a substantial impact through innovation, volunteer hours, number of volunteers, monetary support, etc. It may recognize the historical record of supporting volunteerism through policies and practices. The nomination must be able to demonstrate ongoing community or statewide impact.

Nonprofit Organization Award: Recognizes a nonprofit organization that manages an exceptional volunteer program that has made a significant impact on the community.

Faith-Based Group Award: Recognizes a group that volunteers through a faith-based community organization. The group may serve members of or populations outside the service-sponsoring faith community. The nomination must demonstrate significant volunteer outreach.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Recognizes a lifelong commitment to volunteerism and community service at a variety of levels. Nominees must have made a substantial and sustained impact in the community as a result of their service efforts.

Kentucky Ambassador Award: Recognizes a Kentuckian whose primary volunteer service is outside of Kentucky and/or the United States. A Kentucky Ambassador nominee must have provided outstanding volunteer service and through this service promoted Kentucky as a *Commonwealth of Caring*.

First Lady's Award: Recognizes a Kentuckian who has gone out of his or her way to assist youth in their efforts to graduate from high school. This may have been done through mentoring, time spent tutoring or advising a student in need of assistance or by working directly with a school to help children gain their diplomas.