



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

700 CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 100
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
FAX: (502) 564-2517

January 19, 2010

Dear Friends:

Volunteerism requires a level of self-sacrifice that is often hard to come by. Though we faced unprecedented and disheartening economic challenges in 2009 which affected each and every citizen of the Commonwealth, there are those Kentuckians who confronted these challenges with compassion and humility, and rose to the call of service.

Since 1994, the Governor's volunteer awards program has honored adults and youth in the Commonwealth who go above and beyond to serve their fellow Kentuckians, without any expectation of reward or commendation.

This year we will honor yet another group of extraordinary Kentuckians who have humbly achieved greatness through their selfless service to others with the 2009 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service. In anticipation of this special event, I ask for your help.

We are currently seeking nominations for the 2009 awards. Please accept this invitation to participate by nominating one or more groups or individuals who have demonstrated compassion and humanitarianism in their service to the Commonwealth.

Enclosed you will find information pertaining to deadlines and criteria for each award category. Further information and nomination forms are also available at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service at (800) 239-7404 or by email at KCCVS@ky.gov.

Thank you for your help in recognizing those Kentuckians who personify the spirit of volunteerism and community service.

Sincerely,

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

Steven L. Beshear

Enclosure

2009 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service

General Information and Category Criteria

The Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service, administered by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service, celebrates the volunteer efforts of thousands of Kentuckians. The 2009 awards will be presented at a ceremony in spring 2010.

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. However, these applications are judged based on nominee involvement **in addition** to national service assignments.
- Governor's Award recipients from the previous five years are ineligible for the 2009 awards program. A list of the previous award recipients can be found on the KCCVS Web site, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

Judging

- A panel of judges with significant experience in volunteerism and/or service carefully reviews every application.
- 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.
- In the event of a tie/close score, the geographical area served will be considered.
- Decisions of judges are final.

General Information

- With the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Volunteer Coordinator Award, nominations must focus on service activities that occurred **in 2009**.
- With the exception of the Kentucky Ambassador Award, volunteer service must have been performed in **Kentucky**, serving primarily Kentuckians.
- Information from nominations may be released to the media and elected officials.
- Nomination packets must be postmarked or received by close of business, 4 p.m. on Monday, **Feb. 22, 2010**. No exceptions will be made.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) is a statewide, bipartisan group of at least 15 governor-appointed members with diverse backgrounds in service and volunteerism. The KCCVS actively engages citizens in community service opportunities that enable volunteers, organizations and businesses to share ideas and effectively collaborate to address Kentucky's needs. In addition to the Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service, the KCCVS also hosts a number of annual statewide activities designed to facilitate the development of volunteers and program staff. KCCVS funding is provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Kentucky General Assembly.

Awards Categories and Criteria

Please read carefully – award categories and criteria have changed.

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 (ages 18 and younger) who has demonstrated significant contributions to volunteer efforts/programs. The nominee may serve as a model and inspiration to other volunteers.

Group Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes a group of individuals, not affiliated with an organization, who 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 volunteer who manages other volunteers, exemplifying good management skills 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 outstanding volunteer service over and beyond the requirements of the designated program.

Corporate Award: Recognizes a business that has made a substantial impact through innovation, volunteer hours, number of volunteers, monetary support, etc. This 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*.