

Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards



Volunteer Tennessee

www.volunteertennessee.net



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Today's Agenda

- Overview and History of Volunteer Tennessee
- Overview and History of GVSA
 - County Coordinator Role
 - GVSA Cycle
 - Important Dates and Deadlines
 - GVSA Resources
- Q & A
 - Place in the chat at any time or wait until the end





What is Volunteer Tennessee?

- Governor's commission on volunteerism and community service.
- 25 -member bipartisan commission founded in 1994.
- AmeriCorps – 18 programs, \$7.4M in Tennessee.
 - Engages more than 75,000 members annually in intensive service to serve through nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations nationwide.
- Tennessee Serves Network – Partnership with Volunteer Centers
- Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning – **February 19-20, 2024**
- Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards – **February 18, 2024**





Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA)

- Established in 2008.
- 1 outstanding adult volunteer and 1 outstanding youth volunteer (under 25) from each county in Tennessee.
- 3 business and 3 nonprofits, 1 from each region of the state.
- 2022: 94 individuals, 55 counties, 3 businesses, 3 nonprofits.
- 2023 awards will be held **February 18, 2024**.



Business & Nonprofit Awards

- 3 business and 3 nonprofits, 1 from each region of the state.
- Nominate a Business at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023GVSA-Business>
- Nominate a Nonprofit at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023GVSA-NonProfit>
- Deadline for nominations is December 8, 2023



GVSA Criteria

Honorees must reside and primarily volunteer in the county for which they are being nominated.





GVSA Criteria

- **Need:** Service addresses a specific, compelling need in the community.
- **Action:** The nominee was actively involved and took initiative.
- **Innovation:** The nominee used creative methods to solve community problems.
- **Impact:** The activity or service produced positive changes and provided an example to others.



Timeline

Approximate Date	Task
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate Your Team• Confirm Your Plan - Guidelines and Criteria, Recognition• Call for Nominations
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to Encourage Nominations• Select Your Honorees; (Contact VT by Oct. 15, if you need assistance);
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather honoree information• Friday, Nov. 17 - Submit honoree info to Volunteer Tennessee.• Be prepared to provide additional honoree info as needed.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GVSA Invitations released• Recognize local honorees
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm GVSA invite was received;• RSVP to GVSA Ceremony
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend GVSA Ceremony – February 18, 2024 (Franklin, TN)• Complete GVSA Survey
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm County’s Participation in the next GVSA cycle
May – July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen Volunteerism in Your Community





The County Coordinator's Role

- Responsible for distributing information to the community, collecting nominations, reviewing submissions, choosing honorees from their county and holding local recognition ceremony, if possible.
- Coordinators are all volunteers – Chambers of Commerce, 4-H, United Way, County & Local Government, etc.
- Resources are on our website ([Resources for GVSA County Coordinators \(tn.gov\)](https://www.gvsa.org/resources-for-gvsa-county-coordinators-tn.gov)) and Volunteer Tennessee staff are available
- Coordinators must ensure that the process is fair, open and public



Commitments & Benefits

Commitments

- Select qualified honorees
- Communicate with Volunteer Tennessee
- No more than 5 hours/month (in following years, it should take less time). October-November will be busier.

Benefits

- Increase awareness of volunteerism in your area
- Increase awareness of community needs
- Attending GVSA
- Increased visibility of your role/your office in the community





1. Choose your Team

- What is the capacity in your county?
 - Group Size
 - Size of the team will depend on how you want to celebrate and how you plan to select honorees.
- Who in the county can help?
 - Consider various sectors in the community: businesses, non-profit, government agencies.



2. Formulate Your Plan

- Check for Existing Recognition Programs
 - If your organization already conducts a volunteer recognition/nomination process, you do not have to hold a separate process for the GVSA. You can submit your winner to the GVSA.
- Decide Your Campaign Type
 - Media, Social Media, Small, Large
- Communicate. Communicate. Communicate.
- Confirm Your Guidelines and Judging Criteria
- Set your Deadline. Remember, honorees are due to Volunteer Tennessee on Nov. 17, 2023.

In this stage, you will want to make sure that your plans will lead to an open, fair and public process





3. Call for Nominations

- Distribute nomination form to local organizations:
 - Contact nonprofits, volunteer centers, churches, community centers, Chambers of Commerce, social clubs.
- Engage your local media outlets
- Social Media and Websites
 - Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter
- Also use these hashtags for additional exposure
 - #volunteertennessee
 - #tennesseeserves
 - #GVSA
 - #GVSA2023





4. Selecting Your Honorees

- Picking a selection committee
 - Large, small, individual
 - Informal
- Reviewing nominations
 - Do they perform a majority of their volunteering in your county?
 - Do they LIVE in your county?
 - Do they meet GVSA and local criteria?
- Informing the winners
 - Individuals calls/letters
 - Formal event where all nominees attend?





5. Host a Local Recognition

- Non-event recognition
 - Proclamation from the Mayor
 - Media Announcement about Winner
 - Recognition at local government meeting
 - Ordering awards/certificates
- Event Recognition
 - Use components from the non-event ideas and combine them into an event.
 - Invite County Mayor and other elected officials
 - Develop community partnerships to sponsor event.
 - Media campaign-Media alerts/press releases.

Please let us know if you plan to have a local ceremony or event & share the pictures! We'd love to attend!



6. GVSA Honoree Submission

- Send in your 1 adult and 1 youth honoree to Volunteer Tennessee with the appropriate information:
 - **Honoree Contact Info-** *Vol TN will email or mail invites and send materials post event*
 - **Honoree bio/key bullet points-** *Used in award materials and recognizing them at the banquet*
 - Should highlight why they are a Volunteer Star***
 - **Photos-** *Ideally one “service in action” and one headshot photo- Used in event materials*
 - **Local GVSA Process** – *Volunteer Tennessee will want to know more about how you conduct your local awards program.*
- ***Revisions to our online form.**
- Honoree submission deadline: **November 17, 2023**



Honoree Submission is Online

Adult Honorees:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVSAsubmission **Adult**

Youth Honorees:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVSAsubmission **Youth**

The form is now live. Email will be sent to County Coordinators. Business and Nomination Form are also live already.

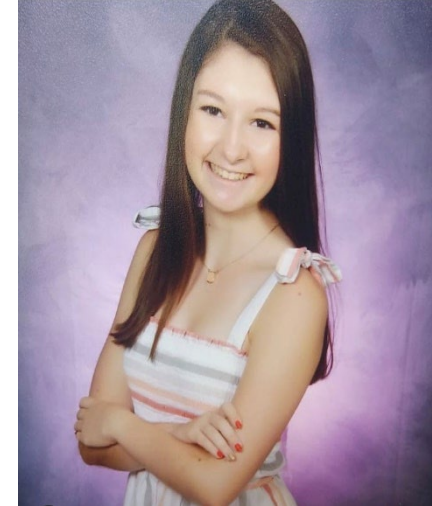
Submissions should be for individuals only. (not for sibling, married couples, groups, etc.)

Bios and photos can be uploaded directly onto the form.



Photos of Honoree

- Headshots are preferred for GVSA program booklet.
- Upload PNG or JPG
- Required



- No Couple or Group Photos



7. GVSA Event

- **Statewide event: Sunday, February 18, 2024**
- Honorees (and 1-2 guests), County Coordinators and County Mayors attend at no cost.
- General Assembly members and TN members of Congress will also be notified of honorees in their district and sent invitations to event.
- Nominators and family/friends can purchase tickets to the events.



GVSA Event

- The emcee will recognize honorees by county, in alphabetical order. Honorees come up and receive their award from Miss Tennessee Volunteer and have their photo taken.
- The photos from the ceremony are available on Volunteer Tennessee's web site and each honoree receives a photo print in the mail.





Other Opportunities:

- **View Additional Resources:** [Resources for GVSA County Coordinators \(tn.gov\)](#)
- **Sponsorship opportunities**
- **Serve as a County Coordinator for an additional county**



Questions?



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