

# 2017 NOMINATION FORM INFORMATION

The Governor's Points of Light Awards are organized and presented by Nevada Volunteers, the Governor's Commission on Service.

## NEVADA VOLUNTEERS' MISSION:

The mission of Nevada Volunteers is to foster a statewide culture of service and volunteerism by:

- Building a collaborative statewide infrastructure that supports existing national service and volunteer efforts across the state;
- Increasing and improving volunteer and national service opportunities; and
- Improving national service and volunteer management and increasing retention.

## OUR HISTORY

**1993:** The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 created the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) charged with connecting Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and nation. CNCS invited governors to create state commissions to guide and oversee national service programs.

**1994:** Nevada Governor Bob Miller established an advisory commission and authorized the Dept. of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to house the Nevada Commission on Community Service. The commission began selecting and funding AmeriCorps programs that addressed locally-identified needs and Nevada's priorities for service.

**1998:** The commission became an independent non-profit 501 c (3) organization.

**2001:** Nevada Volunteers held the first Governor's Points of Light Awards Ceremony.

**2008:** Governor Jim Gibbons by Executive Order changed the name of the Nevada Commission for National and Community Service to Nevada Volunteers.

**2009:** Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, signed by President Barack Obama, amended the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to expand and strengthen national service programs.

**2013:** Nevada Volunteers launched the Governor's Volunteer Recognition Certificate in partnership with Governor Brian Sandoval.

**2014:** Nevada Volunteers became the designated Service Enterprise Hub in Nevada.

**2016:** Nevada Volunteers recognized the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Governor's Points of Light Awards.



The Governor's Points of Light Awards recognize individuals, non-profit organizations, corporate volunteer programs, volunteer managers and volunteer programs serving veterans for their dedication, commitment and determination in promoting and supporting volunteerism throughout Nevada. Nominating an individual or organization for an award is an excellent way to recognize their work, bring your community together around an effort, and celebrate volunteerism on a statewide level.

Award recipients will be honored at an awards luncheon in Las Vegas, Nevada, date to be determined.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Any individual from southern, northern and rural Nevada, non-profit organization volunteer program, corporate volunteer program, volunteer manager or volunteer program serving veterans in the state of Nevada can be nominated.

## ELIGIBLE

Individual nominees must be Nevada residents  
Group nominations must be Nevada organizations  
Service must have been completed in the state of Nevada

## INELIGIBLE

Individuals who receive a stipend or salary, such as national service members, for their service are not eligible, with the exception of Volunteer Managers.

Governor's Points of Light recipients and finalists are not eligible to be a recipient or finalist in the same category for a 5-year period.  
Nevada Volunteers Commission members are not eligible.

## AWARD CATEGORIES

Nominations must be submitted individually for each category:

Non-Profit and Community Organization Volunteer Program  
Corporate and Business Volunteer Program  
Volunteer Program Serving Veterans  
Volunteer Manager

Individual – Northern Nevada  
Individual – Southern Nevada  
Individual – Rural Nevada

**Contact us:** (775) 825-1900

[info@nevadavolunteers.org](mailto:info@nevadavolunteers.org)

[www.nevadavolunteers.org](http://www.nevadavolunteers.org)



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **I nominated someone last year but they didn't win. Can I nominate them again?**

Award recipients and finalists are ineligible to be a finalist or recipient in the same category for a period of 5 years. If you are nominating someone again, think about how you might be able to strengthen the nomination. The award decisions are difficult and many outstanding volunteers and organizations are not selected

### **May the nomination be a surprise?**

Please let the nominee know you have nominated them for an award by the time you submit the nomination. This will help alleviate confusion on the part of the nominee and help everyone understand the process.

### **Will you contact the references I listed?**

Perhaps. If your nominee is selected as a finalist, a phone interview will be conducted with all references listed.

### **Does it help if more than one person nominates a volunteer?**

No. Only one nomination will be considered for any individual or group. Multiple nominations will not add extra weight to the decisions.

### **May I nominate myself?**

No

### **Can I submit a nomination for a group of volunteers?**

If a group of volunteers worked on a project for a non-profit organization, they can be submitted under that organization's name. Individual recognition would be submitted within one of the 3 individual volunteer categories but only one person would be selected as a finalist and/or recipient.

### **What are some tips for writing the narrative answers to create a winning nomination?**

Do your best to describe the service that the person or organization has provided. The judging committee would like to see specific examples and anecdotes of what has been accomplished and how. Try to include measurable achievements, such as how many people accessed services, how many children were tutored, how many years the program has been in operation, how long the volunteer has been active, etc. Think about what makes this volunteer or organization unique and tell about that. The judging committee makes their decision based solely upon what you send in your nomination. It's up to you to tell why this person or program is worthy of recognition.

### **Can I submit additional documentation to support my nomination?**

No. The judging committee will make their decision based solely on the information submitted in the nomination form.

### **Are finalists and recipients required to attend the awards ceremony?**

Yes. Nevada Volunteers reserves the right to select an alternate recipient should the nominee be unable to accept the award in person. Organizations and/or individuals being nominated should notify Nevada Volunteers if travel assistance is requested. Extenuating circumstances that prevent a finalist from attending may be taken into consideration and should be brought to the attention of Nevada Volunteers.

All finalists and recipients will receive one luncheon ticket at no charge. Nevada Volunteers invites the current governor to the awards event to recognize all finalists and recipients but attendance by the governor is not guaranteed and he may send a designee.

### Submitting Nominations

The online nomination form requires:

- Nominator and nominee contact information
- Information on organization where volunteer service is conducted or program is based
- Category of the nomination
- Contact information for three references
- Narrative Sections on: Achievement, Need, Innovation, Mobilization and Endurance

All nominations must be submitted online at: <http://bit.ly/2017GPOL>

Nominations have been extended, and must be submitted by 11:59 pm on Friday, June 16, 2017.

Questions? Email us at [info@nevadavolunteers.org](mailto:info@nevadavolunteers.org)

(Nevada Volunteers cannot respond to queries regarding the status of a specific nomination or provide advice on completing the nomination form)