



ACCLAIM AWARD RUBRIC

Community Service Award

Think of this category as a volunteer of the year award. The focus here is on service and volunteer impact. Nominate an alum who has given back through sustained volunteer work, community leadership, advocacy, or initiatives that strengthen and uplift communities. This category is about heart, commitment, and positive change at the grassroots level.

Applicant Name: _____

Question 1: Provide specific examples that exhibit the nominee’s commitment, leadership skills, and values within the community. Highlight instances where they have demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to community service.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Proficient (3)	Basic (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Clarity & Detail of Examples	Provides clear, specific examples that effectively demonstrate commitment, leadership, and values. Includes detailed descriptions of volunteer activities and experiences.	Provides good examples of commitment, leadership, and values, but may lack some detail or specificity in describing volunteer activities.	Mentions volunteer activities and values but lacks specific examples or depth in the description.	Vague or minimal examples that do not clearly demonstrate commitment, leadership, or values.
Leadership Skills	Clearly demonstrates strong leadership through initiatives or roles that made a significant impact on the community or organization.	Demonstrates leadership with some examples of positive impact on the community or organization.	Mentions leadership, but the examples are not significant or lack clarity in impact.	Little to no evidence of leadership or impact through volunteer work.
Core Values and Commitment	Shows a deep commitment to the community, guided by strong core values such as integrity, compassion, and service.	Demonstrates commitment to the community with clear values, but may not fully illustrate the depth of these values.	Some indication of commitment to the community and values, but not well-developed or clearly linked to actions.	Minimal demonstration of core values or community commitment.
Impact on the Community	Describes significant, positive, and lasting impact on the community through volunteer efforts, with	Shows positive impact on the community, with clear but smaller	Impact on the community is mentioned but lacks depth or clear	Little to no demonstrated positive impact on the community.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Proficient (3)	Basic (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
	concrete examples of change or improvement.	examples of change or improvement.	examples of positive change.	
Volunteer Activities & Experiences	Provides a comprehensive list of volunteer activities and experiences, clearly detailing the nominee's role and contributions.	Lists volunteer activities and experiences with some detail on the nominee's role and contributions.	Lists volunteer activities, but with limited detail or unclear contributions.	Little to no mention of volunteer activities or minimal contribution descriptions.

Total: ___/16

Question 2: Outline and describe the recognized contributions and distinct achievements the nominee has earned in a volunteer capacity. Highlight specific initiatives, projects, or roles where the nominee has demonstrated exceptional volunteer commitment and impact.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Clarity & Detail of Contributions	Response clearly and thoroughly describes specific contributions and achievements in detail, providing concrete examples and outcomes.	Response describes contributions with adequate detail and examples, but could provide more depth or specificity.	Response mentions contributions but lacks detail or clear examples.	Response is vague, lacking specific contributions or examples.
Impact on Community	Describes a significant, measurable, and lasting positive impact on the community with specific outcomes (e.g., improved services, engaged community members).	Describes a positive impact on the community, but the impact is not as clearly measurable or significant.	Mentions the community impact but lacks clear evidence or outcomes to demonstrate its significance.	Does not clearly describe any positive impact on the community, or the impact seems minimal or unclear.
Recognition of Achievements	Describes the nominee's recognition (e.g., awards, testimonials, or formal acknowledgment) in great detail. Demonstrates the importance of their achievements.	Mentions some recognition or acknowledgment of achievements but lacks depth or explanation.	Recognition is mentioned but not explained in detail or linked to the achievements.	No recognition mentioned, or the nominee's contributions are not acknowledged formally.
Scope & Range of Volunteer Work	Shows evidence of a broad scope of volunteer activities, with involvement in different projects or areas, demonstrating a wide-reaching impact.	Mentions involvement in one or two volunteer activities, showing the nominee's contributions in specific areas.	Limited scope of volunteer activities or focus on only one area with limited impact.	Mentions minimal volunteer activities, without showcasing any range or significant involvement.
Consistency & Dedication	Demonstrates the nominee's long-term dedication and consistent involvement in volunteer activities over time.	Indicates a consistent commitment, but does not clearly describe the duration or depth of involvement.	Shows some dedication, but lacks evidence of long-term or regular participation.	Does not show evidence of consistent or ongoing commitment to volunteer work.

Total: ___/16

Question 3: Reflect on the unique strengths and qualities that have significantly contributed to the nominee's success. Explain how these traits, along with their ability to overcome challenges and barriers, make them deserving of this award.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Proficient (3)	Basic (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Clarity & Depth of Strengths and Qualities	Clearly describes nominee's unique strengths and qualities with specific, compelling examples that illustrate their impact.	Describes nominee's strengths with some examples, but lacks depth in certain areas.	Mentions strengths but lacks specific examples or detailed explanation.	Vague or minimal description of nominee's qualities with little supporting detail.
Challenges & Barriers Overcome	Provides a detailed and inspiring account of significant challenges overcome, demonstrating resilience and perseverance.	Mentions challenges and barriers with some explanation of how they were overcome.	Acknowledges challenges but provides little detail on how they were addressed.	Little to no mention of challenges, or lacks explanation of overcoming them.
Connection Between Strengths & Success	Clearly and convincingly connects nominee's strengths to their success, demonstrating a direct link between qualities and achievements.	Shows a connection between strengths and success, but may lack clarity or strong examples.	Some connection is made, but it is weak or not well-supported.	Fails to make a clear connection between nominee's strengths and their success.
Justification for Award Worthiness	Provides a compelling, well-supported argument for why the nominee deserves this award based on their strengths and achievements.	Makes a strong case for the nominee, but may lack depth or specific examples.	Provides some reasoning, but the argument is weak or not fully developed.	Minimal justification for why the nominee is deserving of the award.

Total: __/16

Overall Application Scoring (1-4)

The applicant has well developed application with outstanding answers that provide plentiful details and examples, is well- thought out and well written.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

References (1-4)

Evidenced by strong documentation, letters of recommendation are superior and relevant.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Overall Impression (1-4)

Do you feel the applicant should win this award?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Total: __/12

Additional Comments:

Overall Total: __/60

Percentage: __%