

City of Aurora Community Spirit Awards

2020 Nomination Guide

Presented by



City of Aurora Community Spirit Awards

The city of Aurora needs your help to recognize the achievements of volunteers and local organizations that have contributed time, talent, and resources to building a stronger Aurora. The Community Spirit Awards are divided into four categories.

Category One: City of Aurora Hero Awards



- City of Aurora first responder: 1 Award

The City of Aurora First Responder Hero award seeks to recognize a public safety employee (police, fire, 911 dispatcher) who actively volunteers in the community and has made a positive difference in the lives of others. Open to all part- and full-time employees who have completed their probationary period.



- City of Aurora employee: 1 Award

The City of Aurora Employee Hero award recognizes and celebrates a city employee who has positively impacted the community through their leadership and volunteer work. Open to all part- and full-time employees who have completed their probationary period.



- City of Aurora volunteer (IE: library volunteer, city commissioner): 1 Award

The City of Aurora Volunteer Hero award recognizes a resident volunteer whose efforts directly impact city operations. For instance, volunteers may be nominated for service related to city events, programming, commissions, outreach efforts, etc.

Charitable activities or events cannot be part of a job description or job duties and no monetary benefit can be obtained. The nominee should have a passion and desire to help others and strives to make the city of Aurora the best place to call home.

Category Two: Volunteer Service Awards



- Youth Volunteer of the Year: 1 award

The Youth Volunteer of the Year award recognizes a community member, 18 years or younger, whose volunteer efforts have positively impacted the city of Aurora, especially other youths. Any youth who lives in, attends school in, or volunteers in Aurora may be nominated for this award.



- Volunteer of the Year: 1 award

The Volunteer of the Year award recognizes an outstanding community volunteer for their valuable and selfless commitment to a nonprofit organization, school, or military installation that is either located in or has a presence in the Aurora community. The nominee must be 18 years or older and live in Aurora.



- Service Member of the Year (active or retired): 1 award

The Service Member of the Year award recognizes a current or retired service member whose volunteer efforts have significantly impacted the city of Aurora. Priority will be given to those who are actively supporting other service members via volunteer work, mentoring opportunities, etc.

Category Three: Community Partner and Community Organization Awards

- Community Partner of the Year: 1 award



The Community Partner of the Year award is given to a local business who has demonstrated excellence in partnering with a city of Aurora nonprofit organization, school, or military installation to better serve the needs of the community. This award was founded to recognize and honor the vital role that local businesses play in helping to create a better community for everyone via advocacy, volunteerism, and philanthropy.

- Community Organization of the Year: 1 award



The Community Organization of the Year award recognizes a nonprofit organization that manages an exceptional volunteer program whose efforts have made a significant impact within the community. This award recognizes the important role that volunteer organizations play in helping to address pressing needs within the community. Any nonprofit organization located in Aurora, or that serves Aurora community members, may be nominated for this award.

Category Four: Community Leader of the Year Awards

- Community Leader of the Year: 1 award



The city's highest volunteer honor is presented in recognition of outstanding volunteerism, leadership, and philanthropy within the city of Aurora. This award honors an individual whose leadership is contributing to building a stronger city for all community members. Nominees must reside in Aurora. There is no specific time period to qualify for this award, however, volunteer service must exceed 3 years and/or 500 hours of service.

What Type of Volunteer Service is Acceptable?

- Activities must be performed as an unpaid volunteer that provides no personal benefit.
- Volunteer activities must take place in the city of Aurora serving nonprofits, schools, or military installations.
- The nominee's/organization's volunteer work should have occurred in the previous 12 months, but do not necessarily need to be ongoing. *This requirement does not apply to the Community Leader of the Year award.*

Submitting A Nomination

- Complete the nomination form below telling the Community Spirit Awards Committee all about the nominee's transformational work in the community.

Nominations must be received by Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.

Submit your nomination to:

Joshua Nicholas
jnichola@auroragov.org

Or drop off/mail to:

Community Spirit Awards Nominations
15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Ste. 4500
Aurora, CO 80012

Frequently Asked Questions

- **When will the Community Spirit Awards be presented?**
The 2020 Community Spirit Awards will be presented Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at the Aurora Municipal Center (15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, CO). Reception – 5:30 p.m. Award ceremony – 6:30 p.m. All finalists will be invited to attend the reception and award ceremony.
- **Should I tell the volunteers they've been nominated?**
Yes! It is a great honor to be nominated for a City of Aurora Community Spirit Award and it helps to ensure that if the nominee is this year's award recipient, they are able to attend the award ceremony on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at the Aurora Municipal Center.
- **What happens after a volunteer is nominated?**
After the nomination form is received, a congratulatory letter will be sent to the nominee. The nominee will receive an invitation to the awards reception and ceremony while applications are reviewed and an award recipient is selected.
- **Can I submit more than one nomination?**
Yes, you may nominate more than one person in one or all categories.
- **Are all nominees recognized?**
All nominees will be recognized at the awards ceremony. All award recipients will be featured in the 2020 Community Spirit Awards program.
- **Who chooses the award recipients?**
Recipients are selected by a group of community volunteers and city of Aurora employees. If you are interested in volunteering for the Community Spirit Awards Committee, please contact Joshua Nicholas, 303.739.7257, jnichola@auroragov.org.
- **Questions?** Contact us by calling 303.739.7257 or emailing Joshua Nicholas at jnichola@auroragov.org.

City of Aurora Community Spirit Awards 2020 Nomination Form



Select One

- Category One: City of Aurora HERO Awards:** First Responder City Employee City Volunteer
- Category Two: Volunteer Awards:** Youth Volunteer Volunteer (18+) Service Member
- Category Three: Community Partner & Community Organization Awards:** Partner Organization
- Category Four:** Community Leader of the Year Award

Note: if additional space is needed, please attach separate sheets of paper. News stories, letters of support, etc. that highlight the nominee's/organization's volunteer service are also accepted.

Nominator Information:

First and Last Name or Name of Organization/Business: _____

Title/Role: _____ Organization/Business/Group: _____

How do you know the nominee? _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Nominee Information:

First and Last Name or Name of Organization/Business: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

- Nonprofit organization/school/military installation that nominee recently or currently volunteers with:

- Mission statement of nonprofit organization/school/military installation that nominee recently or currently volunteers with:

- Additional Notes:

Tell a story about your nominee.

- Answer the following three questions about your nominee to help the Selection Committee better understand how the volunteer/organization has positively impacted the community.

1. What hands-on volunteer work has the nominee engaged in (i.e., with who, what, when, how) to help create a stronger community?
2. What is at least one detailed example of how the nominee's or organization's contributions to the community have impacted an organization or person(s)?
3. What sets the nominee or organization apart from others in terms of their character and/or commitment to the community and volunteer work?

