



2025 GVSA County Coordinator Directory





What are the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards?

Since 2008, Volunteer Tennessee has hosted the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA), which is an annual recognition that honors the volunteer efforts of Tennesseans in every county.

The Purpose:

- Recognize Tennessee's exceptional volunteers who are making a lasting impact in their communities through volunteer and community service
- Showcase the combined impact of volunteers throughout Tennessee
- Inspire people of all ages to get involved and make a difference in their communities

The Honorees:

The goal is to have 2 honorees from all 95 Tennessee counties.

- A Youth (Age 25 and under)
- An Adult

The County Coordinator:

- Volunteers to lead the process in each county
- Assembles a county team
- Solicits and evaluates nominations
- Selects an adult and a youth honoree by **November 14, 2025**
- Submits honoree information
- Recognizes recipients locally
- Celebrates recipients at state-wide recognition on **March 8, 2026**



Recognition Criteria

The four key criteria to be used for selecting GVSA nominees.

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

Note: A separate recognition is available for Businesses and Nonprofit Organizations. More information on those awards is available at www.tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee/.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Any individual whose volunteer activities in Tennessee benefit the community or the State of Tennessee in a substantial, important, or unique way. If a nominee is age 25 or under, please select Youth as the category on the nomination form.
- Individuals **MUST** reside in the county for which they are being honored.
- Students receiving course credits are eligible only if the volunteer service extends beyond course requirements. This must be clearly indicated in the nomination letter.
- National Service program participants (AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, RSVP, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, etc.) are encouraged to apply based on their volunteer involvement in their national service assignment.

Who is NOT Eligible:

- Individuals who do NOT reside in the county for which they are being honored.
- Individuals involved in court-mandated community service or those serving as "loaned executives."
- Persons who receive compensation for service rendered (except National Service participants noted).
- Individuals who have previously received a Governor's Volunteer Stars Award.
- Groups or families. Each individual will need to be submitted as separate nominations.



Directory of Participating Counties for the 2025 Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards

Below is a list of all currently participating counties and the county contact info. County coordinators facilitate the local volunteer recognition process to select one outstanding adult and one youth volunteer from the county for statewide recognition. If you are interested in nominating a volunteer, please contact the county coordinator for details.

******Please note that submission processes and deadlines vary from county to county. All counties will finalize volunteer selections by November 14, 2025.******

Anderson County

Kate Barnett
Volunteer East Tennessee - United Way
of Greater Knoxville
barnettk@unitedwayknox.org
865-582-4085

Blount County

Jennifer Wackerhagen
United Way of Blount County
jwackerhagen@unitedwayblount.org
865-982-2251 ext. 17

Campbell County

Brandon Johnson
Lions Club / Rotary Club
brandonjohnson1994@gmail.com
423-494-4894

Carroll County

Brad Hurley
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
cchamber@earthlink.net
731-986-4664

Cheatham County

Carol Furnier
Cfurnier@aol.com
615-364-1242

Chester County

Pat Ross
United Way of West Tennessee
patross@unitedway.tn.org
731-422-1816

Claiborne County

Mayor Joe Brooks
Claiborne County Mayor
countymayor@claibornecountytn.gov
423-626-5236

Clay County

Beverly Murphy
Clay County Chamber
bmclaychamber@gmail.com
931-243-3338 Office
931-260-7668 Mobile

Coffee County

Lamar Wilkie
gvs@glwilkie.com
931-952-3736

Cumberland County

Beth Wyatt-Davis
Cumberland County Mayor's Office
bdavis@cumberlandcountyttn.gov
931-484-6165



Davidson County

Jesus Fernandez Cabrera
United Way of Greater Nashville
jesus.fernandez@unitedwaygn.org
615-738-1924

Dickson County

Lacey Nelson
UT Extension- Dickson County
lnelso27@utk.edu
615-446-2788

Fayette County

Candace Tate
Volunteer and Leadership Memphis
ctate@leadershipmemphis.org
901-278-0016

Fentress County

Seth Vaughn
Fentress County Chamber of
Commerce
seth@jamestowntn.org
931-879-9948

Franklin County

Hunter Isbell
UT Extension
hisbell@utk.edu
931-967-2741

AND

Mary Beth Henley
UT Extension- Franklin County
mhenley1@utk.edu
931-967-2741

Giles County

Jeana Mills
South Central Human Resource Agency
jmills@schra.us
931-580-5406

Grainger County

Kate Barnett
Volunteer East Tennessee
barnettk@unitedwayknox.org
865-582-4085

Grundy County

Gayle VanHooser
Grundy County Register of Deeds
gayle.vanhooser@vcourthouse.net
931-205-7115

Hamilton County

Fran Barker
williamandfranbarker@gmail.com
423-305-4062

Hancock County

Sheldon Livesay
Of One Accord Ministry/Hawkins County
Chamber of Commerce
OfOneAccord@gmail.com
423-921-8044; Cell: 423-923-0864

Hawkins County

Sheldon Livesay
Of One Accord Ministry/Hawkins County
Chamber of Commerce
OfOneAccord@gmail.com
423-921-8044; Cell: 423-923-0864

Henry County

Tara Wilson
Paris-Henry County Industrial
Committee
twilson@phcindustrialcommittee.org
731-407-7071

Houston County

Melinda Conwell
mindylou1118@gmail.com
615-415-6107

Humphreys County

Eranne Ferrell
Humphreys County School System
Ferrelle@hcss.org
615-418-0509

Jackson County

Hope Vargas
Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
director@gainesborochamber.org
931-268-0971



Jefferson County

Kate Barnett
Volunteer East Tennessee - United Way
of Greater Knoxville
barnettk@unitedwayknox.org
865-582-4085

Johnson County

Danielle Pleasant
Ut-TSU Extension Johnson County
dsilver2@tennessee.edu
423-727-8161

Knox County

Kate Barnett
Volunteer East Tennessee - United Way
of Greater Knoxville
barnettk@unitedwayknox.org
865-582-4085

Lawrence County

Jeana Mills
South Central Human Resource Agency
jmills@schra.us
931-580-5406

Lewis County

Debbie Landers
Hohenwald-Lewis County Chamber of
Commerce
director@hohenwaldlewischamber.com
931-796-4084

Lincoln County

Carolyn Denton
Fayetteville Lincoln Co. Chamber of
Commerce & Tourism Bureau
flcchamber@fpunet.com
931.433.1234

Loudon County

Kate Barnett
Volunteer East Tennessee - United Way
of Greater Knoxville
barnettk@unitedwayknox.org
865-582-4085

Macon County

Brenda Hiatt
Macon County Chamber
maconchamber@nctc.com
615-888-6269

Marshall County

Emily Darnell
Marshall County ECD
emily.darnell@marshallcountyttn.com
931-655-0108

Maury County

Jeana Mills
South Central Human Resource Agency
jmills@schra.us
931-580-5406

Montgomery County

Valerie Linares
Montgomery County Government
vlinares@mcgtn.net

Moore County

Jeana Milla
South Central Human Resource Agency
jmills@schra.us
931-580-5406

Morgan County

Blake Melancon
Frozen Head State Park
blake.melancon@tn.gov
423.346.3318

Perry County

Mary Tyler
UT Extension
marlbuie@utk.edu
731-336-9524

Polk County

Lynne McClary
Polk County Chamber of Commerce
westoffice@ocoecountry.com



Rhea County

Bailey Hufstetler
RE/MAX Properties
hufbailey@gmail.com
423-637-7302

Roane County

Ben Briley
Roane County Anti - Drug
Coalition/RSVP Coordinator
bbriley@roaneantidrug.org
865-224-0205

Scott County

Brandon Johnson
Lions Club / Rotary Club
brandonjohnson1994@gmail.com
423-494-4894

Sevier County

Kate Barnett
Volunteer East Tennessee - United Way
of Greater Knoxville
barnettk@unitedwayknox.org
865-582-4085

Shelby County

Candace Tate
Volunteer and Leadership Memphis
ctate@leadershipmemphis.org
901-278-0016

Sullivan County

Becca Sutphen
United Way of Greater Kingsport
bsutphen@uwaykpt.org
423-378-3409 x13

Sumner County

Julie White
Elevate50 Hendersonville
julie@elevate50hendersonville.org
615-822-8758

Union County

Kate Barnett
Volunteer East Tennessee - United Way
of Greater Knoxville
barnettk@unitedwayknox.org
865-582-4085

Wayne County

Jeana Mills
South Central Human Resource Agency
jmills@schra.us
931-580-5406

Weakley County

Gail Rogers
Weakley County Office on
Aging/Dresden Senior Center
agingdresden@gmail.com
731-364-5678

White County

Brooke Luna
White County Executive Assistant
brooke.luna@whitecountyttn.gov
931-836-3203

Williamson County

Sharon McDaniel
Mid-Cumberland HRA
smcdaniel@mchra.com
615-878-1509

Wilson County

Sara Davenport
Wilson County Government, Office of
the County Mayor
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615-444-1383

