



# Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards

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The Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA) is an annual event hosted by Volunteer Tennessee, the state's commission on volunteerism and service, to honor outstanding volunteers across Tennessee. Each year, the GVSA's goal is to recognize one youth and one adult volunteer in each TN county for their exemplary work.

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## What

To showcase Tennessee's volunteer spirit by promoting state-wide volunteerism and strengthen participation in community service. In 2021, half of Tennessee's 95 counties participated in the GVSA. Volunteer Tennessee hopes to increase county participation to 75% by 2022. The long-term goal is to have all 95 counties represented.

## How

**August - November 13, 2022:** County-wide recognition events will be to the determination of the County Coordinator and/or local organizations involved in the county nomination process.

**November 14, 2022:** Honoree(s) information from each county submitted to Volunteer Tennessee.

## When

The GVSA Ceremony will be held at the Franklin Marriott in Franklin, TN on **April 2, 2023**.

[www.tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee](http://www.tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee)  
 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 18th Floor  
 Nashville, TN 37243-1102  
 615-253-8585

[shannon.duke@tn.gov](mailto:shannon.duke@tn.gov)

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# Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards

Volunteer Tennessee, the state's commission on volunteerism and service, annually presents the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA) to honor outstanding volunteers across Tennessee. Each year, the GVSA recognizes one youth and one adult volunteer per county for their exemplary work. During the 2021 GVSA cycle, sixty-six Tennessee counties honored local volunteers.

## NONPARTICIPATING COUNTIES

Volunteer Tennessee's goal is to have all 95 counties participate in the GVSA. However, the counties listed below are not currently represented in the statewide recognition program.

- Bedford
- Bledsoe
- Bradley
- Cheatham
- Decatur
- Dekalb
- Fayette
- Gibson
- Hancock
- Hardeman
- Hardin
- Haywood
- Henderson
- Henry
- Humphreys
- Lake
- Lauderdale
- Marion
- Maury
- Meigs
- Monroe
- Moore
- Overton
- Pickett
- Robertson
- Scott
- Sequatchie
- Sumner
- Trousdale
- Warren
- Washington
- White

## Can You Help?

Volunteer Tennessee seeks local leaders to serve as county coordinators to help recognize volunteers. As a County Coordinator, you will facilitate the local process to select award winners with support and resources from Volunteer Tennessee. If interested in serving or learning more, please email [Shannon.Duke@tn.gov](mailto:Shannon.Duke@tn.gov).





# The Role of County Coordinators

*Thanks to our talented County Coordinators, the 2021 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards recognized **115 volunteers, 3 non-profits, and 3 businesses** from **66 counties** on our online platform!*

*Consider joining our team to promote volunteerism in Tennessee!*

## What You Will Do

- Distribute and promote a county-wide call for nominations.
- Recruit a panel to review nominations.
- Have your panel select your county's adult and youth honorees.
- Determine how to recognize your honorees locally.
- Submit your county's honoree information to Volunteer Tennessee.

## Why Be a County Coordinator?

- Raise the importance of volunteerism in your county.
- Increase the visibility of your role/office within the community.
- Attend the 2022 GVSA with elected officials & outstanding volunteers.
- Highlight important community needs.
- Showcase your county's volunteer spirit at the state level.



# GVSA Nomination Timeline

*Volunteer Tennessee staff are committed to helping County Coordinators be successful. Below is a timeline that you can use. Volunteer Tennessee has a comprehensive County Resource Guide and additional resources to provide you with assistance for the steps below.*

**STEP 1: Choose Your Team**

**STEP 2: Decide What to Celebrate**

**STEP 3: Call for Nominations**

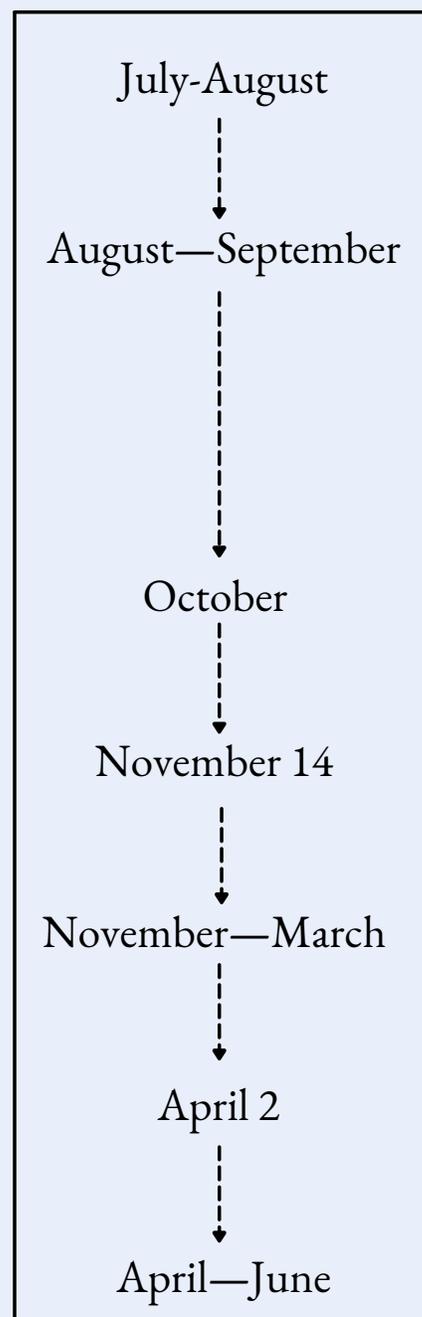
**STEP 4: Select Your Honorees**

**STEP 5: Submit Your Honoree Information**

**STEP 6: Host Your Local Recognition**

**STEP 7: Participate in GVSA Ceremony**

**STEP 8: Strengthen Your County's Volunteerism**





# How to Coordinate a Local GVSA Process

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*What's great about the GVSA is that County Coordinators can make their local GVSA process fit their staff capacity and the uniqueness of their county.*

*Whether you are new to GVSA or just looking for a couple of pointers to expand your recognition program, you can use this sheet to create the ideal nomination process for your county.*

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## Existing Volunteer Recognition Partnership

- To avoid duplicating others' efforts, conduct research to determine if a county-wide volunteer recognition program already exists within your area. If you partner with an existing volunteer recognition program, you can submit your county's youth and adult volunteer of the year from the local event to the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards.

## Media only campaign:

- While the primary goal of any local recognition program is to heavily promote volunteerism within local Tennessee communities, this does not have to be accomplished by hosting an event. With this approach, County Coordinators would at minimum conduct a call for nominations on a public social media platform. Coordinators could also solicit local media attention for the call for nominations.

## Small volunteer recognition campaign:

- Some counties may choose to commemorate a volunteer recognition on a smaller scale. Once again, a county's resources, population, and overall makeup must be considered before starting to plan a program. Such an event may include hosting a reception at a local restaurant or recognizing the volunteer at a county government meeting.

## Large volunteer recognition campaign:

- Your county's volunteer recognition program has the potential to impact many lives through the promotion of volunteerism. A campaign on a larger scale will require more team members, partners, time and possibly money, but will have a greater influence on your community.



# Call for Nominations Outreach

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As the Volunteer State, we know there are individuals who are doing awesome work in your community. As a County Coordinator, here are 10 ideas to post information about your local nomination process. We have seen previous honorees come from all of the recommendations listed below. Our experienced Coordinators also suggest promoting your process as early as you can.

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1. Your Local School Systems
2. Assemblies of Faith
3. Family
4. Friends
5. Social Media
6. Traditional Media
7. Libraries
8. Local Pageants
9. Virtual and Local Community Events
10. Elected Officials



# Honoree Information Checklist for GVSA

*County Coordinators should use this checklist to ensure that the appropriate information for each nominee is submitted to Volunteer Tennessee. County Coordinators have until **Monday, November 14, 2022** to submit honoree information.*

- Address and complete contact info for each nominee.
- Brief biographies (300-400 words should highlight what makes the honoree unique). It should also answer the following questions:
  - What organization(s) does the honoree serve with?
  - How long has the honoree completed volunteer activity with the organization(s)?
  - What type of service does the honoree perform?
  - What makes the honoree's volunteer service unique and/or creative?
  - The extent to which their service or action is above and beyond the call of duty?
  - How does their service address or solve a local community need?
  - What is the degree to which their services/actions have made a lasting contribution or meaningful impact on their community?
  - What sets the honoree apart in terms of their character and/or commitment to the community?
- Headshot to be used in GVSA publications (jpeg, png format)
- One "service in action" photo to be used in GVSA publications (jpeg, png format)
- Submit County nominee information to:
  - Adult: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVSAsubmission\\_Adult](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVSAsubmission_Adult)
  - Youth: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVSAsubmission\\_Youth](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVSAsubmission_Youth)



# GVSA Ceremony

*Please view the pictures below for a glimpse of the GVSA. You can also go to [www.volunteertennessee.net](http://www.volunteertennessee.net) or our [YouTube channel](#) to view additional photos and video.*

