

PTA is a volunteer-driven organization. To provide all of the amazing programs and events a local PTA or council may offer their community, it requires many dedicated volunteers.

Simple ways to show your appreciation to your volunteers at your school throughout the year:

- Recognize them by name on social media.
- Posted highlights or little bios (with their approval) about them in newsletters, social media, website.



Are you ready to recognize your volunteers on an even larger scale? Consider honoring them with an official WSPTA volunteer award. Think of it as inducting them into the PTA Hall of Fame.

To encourage and recognize the outstanding work of volunteers, WSPTA provides multiple individual recognition awards that local PTAs or councils may choose to award to deserving volunteers. Proceeds from the purchase (\$48 out of the \$50 cost of these individual awards, the Honorary Life Membership Award, however, is \$70, which includes a certificate and pin) of these awards go towards funding the WSPTA scholarship program for graduating students. This means the gift you give your amazing volunteer becomes a gift that keeps on giving by helping students pay for continued education.

## Golden Acorn Award

The Golden Acorn Award is presented by a local PTA to a school or community volunteer in recognition of her or his dedication and service to children and youth. Since the beginning of this program in the 1930s, more than 54,000 Golden Acorn Awards have been presented to volunteers throughout Washington state. The Golden Acorn is just for volunteers.

## Honorary Life Membership Award

The Honorary Life Membership Award recognizes an individual who has contributed significantly to the development, growth, and sustainability of a local PTA. It is awarded to someone who has shown extraordinary commitment to the PTA's vision and mission.

Note: Honorary Life Membership Award recipients do not receive a free membership in the PTA that gives the award; recipients of this award need to continue to purchase their own PTA membership annually.

## Outstanding Advocate Award

The Outstanding Advocate Award was established in 2004 to recognize an individual for his or her advocacy and commitment in helping to create strong policies relating to the health,

welfare, safety and education of children and youth. This can be given to a volunteer or staff member.

In 2011, Washington State PTA created the Outstanding Student Advocate Award to recognize student PTA members who have made significant contributions through leadership and service in their school and community.

## Outstanding Educator Award

The Outstanding Educator Award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions in their community to enhance the educational outcomes of all children or youth. An educator is not limited to a teacher and may be defined as a teacher, assistant, specialist, support staff, administrator or community member.

## How to offer WSPTA awards

- Include what awards you want to offer in your standing rules. Including this information in your standing rules does not require that the awards must be designated each year.
- Form an awards committee to determine how winners are selected. Often, previous winners help serve on this committee if they are available. The exception, previous outstanding educators typically do not serve on the committee but may want to help by reviewing nominations for educators via email. The committee can make selections via email or in person. Someone needs to create the list/spreadsheets of nominations that the group will work from.
- Develop a budget for what awards you want to offer. Include any cost for additional tokens of appreciation (like flowers, yard signs, council awards ceremony registration etc.) besides the pin and certificate that your PTA might use.
- Put a request to your PTA members for nominations to help the awards committee choose which volunteer to honor. Consider a paper flyer that gets returned or use an electronic survey to get nominations.
- Determine when award nominations are due. Traditionally, these awards are given out in the spring. If your council has an awards ceremony, you will need to find out when it needs to know your winners' names. They may need to know RSVPs for the event early so count back from that date at least a few weeks so you can notify your honorees and they can find out if they are available to attend.
- Determine how you will inform your winners of their new honor. Will it be a surprise presentation at a meeting? Will their families or co-workers be present for the presentation?
- Awards can be ordered through the [WSPTA Online Store](#).
- Once winners are notified, publicize their names. Let your school family know!

For any questions contact [ptaprogridir@wastatepta.org](mailto:ptaprogridir@wastatepta.org).