



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
Veterans Strengthening America

2026 “Of The Year” Awards Packet

- » Post nomination must be forwarded to your District Chairman by August 1
- » Each District nomination will be forwarded to Department no later than September 15

Table of Contents

National Security Award(s) Guidelines	Page 1-4
National Security of the year Nomination Form (Law Officer, Firefighter, Civilian Life Saver)	Page 5-6
Child Welfare Worker Award Guidelines	Page 7-9
Child Welfare Worker of the Year Nomination Form	Page 10-11
Educator of the Year Nomination Formm	Page 12-18
Legionnaire of the Year Nomination Formm	Page 19
Legislator of the Year Nomination Form	Page 20-21



National Security Of the Year Awards Program

MUST BE INTO DEPARTMENT BY SEPTEMBER 15

Objective

The objective of the American Legion Department of Ohio Public Service Awards is to select well-rounded public service candidates who have exceeded above and beyond the expected duties of their position for public recognition.

Nominees per District Guidelines

Annually, each District in the Department may only nominate one (1) individual per category:

**Law Officer
Firefighter
Civilian Life Saver**

If there is more than one nominee in a category within a District, that District, using any method of their choice, must judge each nominee in that category to determine the one (1) nominee in that category to be forwarded by that District to the Department for Department judging.

Posthumous Nominee Eligibility Criteria – Department Award Only

The Department National Security Commission will consider any Law Officer, Firefighter, or Civilian Life Saver to receive an award posthumously if the death in the line of duty occurred between July 1 and April 6 of the current membership year - the deadline for all award nominees to be submitted to the Department National Security Commission for judging. The same overall criteria apply to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty as applies to all other Department nominees.

AWARDS POINT SYSTEM

The following Point System shall be used by the Department National Security Commission to judge the nomination package of any Law Officer, Firefighter, or Civilian lifesaver:

I.	Community Service	35 Points
II.	Professional Career	40 Points
III.	Heroism	20 Points
IV.	Letters of Recognition, press articles, and supporting documentation	5 Points

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Definition

1. Be a citizen of the United States, male or female;
2. Be a living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officer entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest
 - a. Consideration for a posthumous award will be acceptable only if the nominee's death as occurred after the Department's selection and within the dates for with the award is being presented;
3. Be assigned to, or fully recognized by, Municipal, County, District, State Police, Highway Patrol, Sheriff's office, or as a sworn Federal law enforcement officer such as FBI, Secret Service Agent, United States Federal Marshal, National Park Police, Capitol Police.
 - a. Military police officers or investigators are eligible for participation in this award provided they are state law enforcement certified.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Eligibility Criteria

1. A completed application form,
2. A 5" x 7" photograph of the nominee,
3. A maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2" x 11."
 - a. The cover page shall not count as part of the maximum 18 pages of service documentation.
 - b. The first six or seven pages should contain the individual's service narrative
 - c. Specific acts of community service, heroism, and meritorious performance recognized by the agency should be included and documented. Additional pages may consist of supporting citations and other documentation to have press articles. The list of Citations/Awards for community service, heroism, or meritorious service received. Citations and Awards may consist of those presented in the previous year.
4. The nominee must be recommended by his/her Commanding Officer or Supervisor for the award.
 - a. The commanding officer or supervisor should also state that the law enforcement officer will be available for its presentation at the Department or national convention if selected for this award.

Firefighter of the Year

Definition

For this award, the use of the word “Firefighter” or “firefighter officer” includes any living, active, full-time, paid, or certified volunteer firefighter who is also a municipal or county fire department member. Emergency Medical Technicians, who are serving in some other capacity in the municipal or county fire departments, are also eligible for this award.

1. Be a citizen of the United States, male or female;
2. Be a certified, living, active, full-time, paid, or volunteer firefighter;
3. Be assigned to, or fully recognized by, Municipal, County, District, State or Federal firefighter officer;
4. Include a copy of state or federal certification as well as copies of pertinent training and education certificates as appropriate

Eligibility Criteria

1. A completed application form,
2. A 5” x 7” photograph of the nominee,
3. A maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2” x 11.”
 - a. The cover page shall not count as part of the maximum 18 pages of service documentation.
 - b. The first six or seven pages should contain the individual’s service narrative;
4. Specific acts of community service, heroism, and meritorious performance recognized by the agency should be included and documented. The list of Citations/Awards for community service, heroism, or meritorious service received. Citations and Awards may consist of those presented in a previous year
5. Include a copy of state or federal certification as well as copies of pertinent training and education certificates as appropriate
6. The nominee must be recommended by his/her Commanding Officer or Supervisor for the award.
 - a. The commanding officer or supervisor should also state that the law enforcement officer will be available for its presentation at the Department or national convention if selected for this award.

Civilian Life Saver of the Year

Civilian Life Saver Nominee Eligibility Criteria

1. A completed application form,
2. A 5" x 7" photograph of the nominee,
3. A maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2" x 11."
 - a. The cover page shall not count as part of the maximum 18 pages of documentation.
 - b. A list of Citations/Awards (not copies) presented by any City, County, and State authorities, citizens, and civic groups to the individual for the lifesaving event or circumstance for which they are being nominated
 - c. Specific acts of community service, heroism, and meritorious performance are recognized to include press articles.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



HIO

NOMINATION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Awards are given to one deserving individual in each category as determined by the Department's National Security Commission that has performed above and beyond the call of duty.

Post Submitting

Nomination: _____

District: _____

Nominations Included with This Submission

Only one entry per category please

Law Officer of the Year

Awarded to any professionally paid police, sheriff, highway patrol, etc.

Firefighter of the Year

Awarded to any professionally paid firefighter, volunteer firefighter, paramedic, EMT, EMS, etc.

Civilian Life Saver of the Year

Awarded to any nonpaid or professional person who has saved a life

Eligibility Requirements

1. American Legion Department of Ohio Nomination Form must be submitted
2. Please be sure to designate each nomination packet as either *Law Officer*, *Firefighter* or *Civilian Life Saver* nomination.
3. An official 5" x 7" head and shoulder color photo must be included.
4. Each nominee's submission should be **no more than eighteen (18), single-sided pages**. The nomination packet should include the individuals' service narrative, supporting citations, media coverage, etc.

Failure to adhere to submission criteria could result in disqualification.

Additional Information for Civilian Life Saver Award

The narrative for this nominee should include the contact information (names and addresses) of any individual or group of witnesses to the feat/incident.

Law Officer of the year Nominee Information:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Firefighter of the year Nominee Information:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Civilian Life Saver of the year Nominee Information:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

*Nomination must be signed by the Post **AND** District Commander to be eligible for judging.
All nomination materials must be into Department Headquarters no later than September 15*

Signature of Post Commander

Date

Signature of District Commander

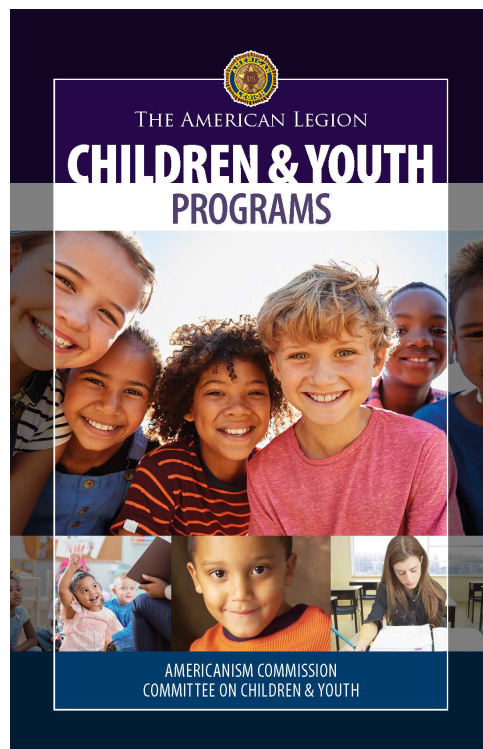
Date

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of



Child Welfare Worker of the Year Award



60 Big Run Road ♦ Delaware, OH

43015 Phone: 740-362-7478

www.ohiolegion.com

HISTORY & INSTRUCTIONS

The Department of Ohio Children & Youth Commission created the Child Welfare Worker of the Year Award to recognize those front-line civilian warriors who work tirelessly on behalf of children every day.

The successes of those who have received this award are the youth who emerge as productive tax paying citizens from all walks of life that may be underserved and at-risk of basic needs of shelter and food. These children may suffer from poverty and broken homes filled with abusive or dysfunctional families that rely upon care and resources distributed, or administered, by the selfless this award recognizes.

Each year, the award recipient chosen by the Children & Youth Commission will receive an award with their name and year ascribed onto the plaque. They will be notified, and the award will be presented at the Mid-Winter Conference Awards Ceremony.

Eligibility and Selection

1. The Ohio American Legion Child Welfare Worker of the Year Award is open to professional or volunteer youth counselors throughout Ohio who demonstrate outstanding devotion to the ideals of The American Legion and provide children of Ohio with positive direction.
2. Nominations must be submitted to Department Headquarters by **September 15th**. Nomination forms available on the Department website: www.ohiolegion.com/of-the-year-awards/. Those permitted to nominate include Post officers, County officers, District officers, Department officers and the Department Children & Youth Commission. Nominations must be sent to your District Children & Youth Commission Chair to be taken into consideration as a District Winner. Acceptance of nominations submitted by anyone other than those noted above will be at the discretion of the Department Children & Youth Commission.
3. The Department Children & Youth Commission will review and judge award nominations in October each year. The recipient will be invited to receive the award at the annual American Legion Mid-Winter Conference.
4. Selection of the recipient will be based upon judging criteria established by the Department Children & Youth Commission and amended as may be deemed necessary, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee.

NOMINATION FORM
THE OHIO AMERICAN LEGION
Child Welfare Worker of the Year

NOMINEE DATA	
1.	Name of Nominee _____
2.	Address _____
3.	City, State & Zip Code _____
4.	Telephone number: Daytime () - Evening () -
5.	Title _____
6.	Employer _____
7.	Nominees Authorization _____ <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">Signature</div>

NOMINATOR DATA	
1.	Nominator _____
2.	Address _____
3.	City, State & Zip _____
4.	Telephone number: Daytime () - Evening () -
5.	Post Number _____ District _____ City _____
6.	Legion Office
7.	Signature of Nominator _____

III. NOMINATION CRITERIA	For Selection Commission Use Only POINTS	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>To be completed by Nominator</i></p> <p>1. Years of Services _____</p> <p>2. Average number of children served each year _____</p> <p>3. Brief description of services provided _____ _____ _____</p> <p>Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer</p> <p>4. Other honors or awards received _____ _____</p> <p>5. Articles published _____ _____</p> <p>6. Why is this nominee exceptional above others providing similar services _____ _____ _____</p> <p>7. Nominees achievements for which nominated _____ _____ _____</p> <p>8. Supervisor's Name _____ Title _____ Address _____</p> <p>Supervisor's Authorization _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature</p>	<p>1. 5</p> <p>2. 10</p> <p>3. 5</p> <p>4. 20</p> <p>5. 10</p> <p>6. 25</p> <p>7. 20</p> <p>8. 5</p>	
	<p>TOTAL 100</p>	



HIO

THE AMERICAN LEGION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

School _____

District # _____

School Address _____

School City, State, Zip _____

Principals Name _____

School Telephone # _____

Eligibility Requirements

THE NOMINEE MUST:

Be an Educator in any grade (K-12) in any public, private, or parochial school or academy in the State of Ohio recognized by the Ohio Department of Education.

Be nominated by a local American Legion Post.

Be endorsed by the Superintendent, and Principal through letters of recommendation to be attached to this Nomination Form.

Place
Photograph Here

(Black & White Preferred)

Award

The American Legion Educator of the Year will be presented with an award at the American Legion Department Mid-Winter Conference and receive one (1) nights housing.

Teaching History

1st year began teaching _____

Total years taught _____

Grade(s) currently taught _____

Subject(s) currently taught _____

THE AMERICAN LEGION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Educator who best meets the qualifications outlined in the Nomination Application will be selected as the AMERICAN LEGION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR by the Department Americanism Commission.

The American Legion Educator of the Year award will be awarded at the upcoming annual Department Mid-Winter Conference.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION:

Applicant and sponsoring American Legion Post should type or print all information. Each section should be completed with as much information as possible. If more space is needed, additional pages may be added.

Section A - Applicant and sponsoring Post should briefly outline the educational career of the nominee.

Section B - List all Education Honors, Awards, Recognitions received by the nominee.

Section C - To be completed by the nominating American Legion Post.

Section D - The applicant and sponsoring Post should list any other education achievements of the nominee to be considered

SECTION PROCESS:

- ✓ Every Post may make a nomination of an exceptional educator.
- ✓ Post nomination must be forwarded to the District Americanism Chairman by **August 1**

- ✓ Each District nomination will be forwarded to the Department Americanism Office no later than **September 15.**
- ✓ The Department Americanism Commission will review each District nomination and select the Department ***“Educator of the Year “***

Section A

EDUCATIONAL CAREER (Brief Outline)

Section B

EDUCATION HONORS, AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS

Section C

(For American Legion Post)

WHAT MAKES THIS EDUCATOR AN EXCEPTIONAL INSTRUCTOR? _____

Section D

(For American Legion Post)

PLEASE LIST ANY OTHER EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NOMINEE, WHICH SHOULD WARRANT CONSIDERATION BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

ATTACHMENTS:

THREE REQUIRED LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

1. School Superintendent 2. American Legion Post 3. School Principal

NOTE: Additional letters of recommendation may be included with this application.

AUTHORIZATION

Certification by Educator

I certify to the accuracy of the foregoing facts. If selected, I will be free to travel to The American Legion Department Mid-Winter Conference and participate as the "Educator of the Year," representing The American Legion and my school corporation.

Date: _____ Signature of Educator: _____

ENDORSEMENTS

School Superintendent

The above named applicant is qualified in every aspect to represent The American Legion and our school corporation and has our recommendation.

Date: _____ Superintendent: _____

American Legion Post

The above named applicant is approved by Post Number as qualified for nomination of The American Legion "Educator of the Year" - *(Must be signed by a designated representative- Post Commander, Post 1st Vice Commander, Post 2nd Vice Commander, Post Adjutant, or Post Americanism Chairman).*

Date: _____ Designated Representative Signature _____
Title _____

American Legion State Selection Committee

This attests the above named applicant has been selected by the Americanism Commission of the Ohio American Legion as the Department "Educator of the Year"

Date_____ Department Chairman Signature_____

*****IMPORTANT-DO NOT SEND DIRECTLY TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS*****



Legionnaire of the Year Award

This award is to highlight the efforts and contributions of a Legionnaire that reflects participation and involvement within Posts, District, Department and National programs.

This will be awarded at Department Convention therefore, nominations need to be received by Department Headquarters by May 1st.

Legionnaire Information:

Legionnaires Name _____

ID Number _____ Post Number _____

Nominated by _____

Participation and involvement within Post, District, Department, or National Programs

Please attach a one-page narrative of accomplishments.



The American Legion Department of Ohio Legislator of the Year Award

1. Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current member of the United States Congress or the State of Ohio General Assembly or was a member of the United States Congress or Ohio General Assembly at the time of application.

2. Alignment with American Legion Preamble Principles:

- Demonstrated commitment to Americanism, including promoting patriotism and responsible citizenship.
- Efforts to maintain a strong national defense.
- Dedication to the rehabilitation and care of all veterans.
- Active in programs that benefit the youth of America.
- Commitment to fostering a sense of community and mutual support among citizens.

3. Legislative Achievements:

- Sponsored or co-sponsored legislation that significantly benefits veterans, military personnel, and/or their families. Which supports American values, freedom, and democracy.

4. Community Impact:

- Evidence of positive impact on local communities, especially in areas that resonate with the American Legion's mission and programs.

5. Nomination Process:

- Nominations can be made by American Legion posts through their Districts then submitted to the Department Legislative Commission for review.
- A detailed submission outlining the nominee's qualifications and contributions, with specific examples, is required. i.e. suggested, 1-2 pages

6. Selection Criteria:

- The Legislative Commission will select from the nominations one (1) Member of Congress and one (1) member of the Ohio General Assembly.
- The selection will be based on the extent to which the nominee's actions reflect the American Legion's preamble and overall impact.
- The Legislative Commission will make this recommendation to the Department Executive Committee each year at the December meeting for presentation in the following year.

7. Award Presentations

- The award for a member of Congress will be presented in Washington D.C., during the Washington Conference.

- The award for the Legislator of the Ohio General Assembly will be presented at the Ohio State House.
- Should neither of the above locations be an option, the awards may be presented to either recipient within their District or at an American Legion Department of Ohio Convention or Conference.
- The presentation might include a plaque or certificate, along with a press release to local and national media, the Ohio Legion News, and video if appropriate, to ensure appropriate recognition.

8. Additional Considerations:

- The award should be non-partisan, focusing solely on the achievements and impact related to the American Legion's values.
- Consider establishing a recurring schedule for the award, such as annual, to maintain its prestige and relevance.

This framework aims to ensure that the award is meaningful, aligning closely with the values and objectives of the American Legion while honoring significant legislative contributions.

DEADLINE:

- *Post Legislator of the Year nominations need to be forwarded to your District Legislative Chairman by August 1st.
- *District Legislator of the Year selections need to be returned to Department no later than September 15th.