

JCI USA

2025 AWARDS MANUAL



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USA

**TAKE THE
OPPORTUNITY**



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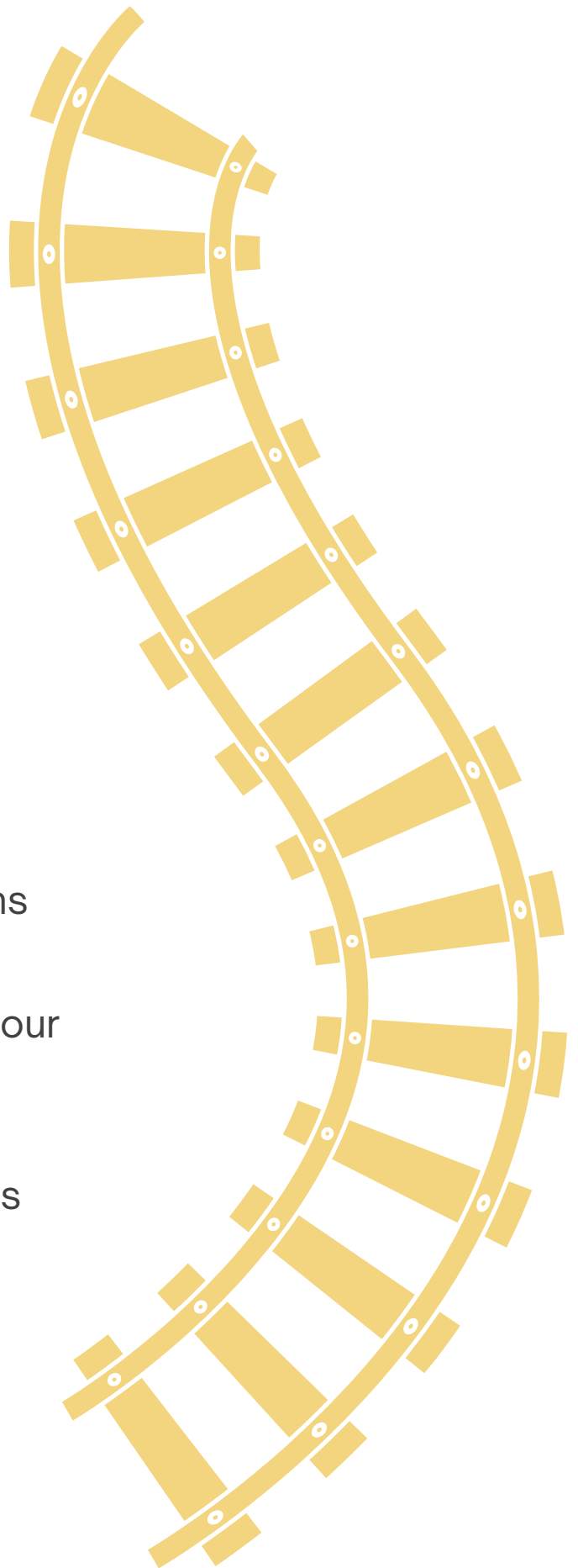
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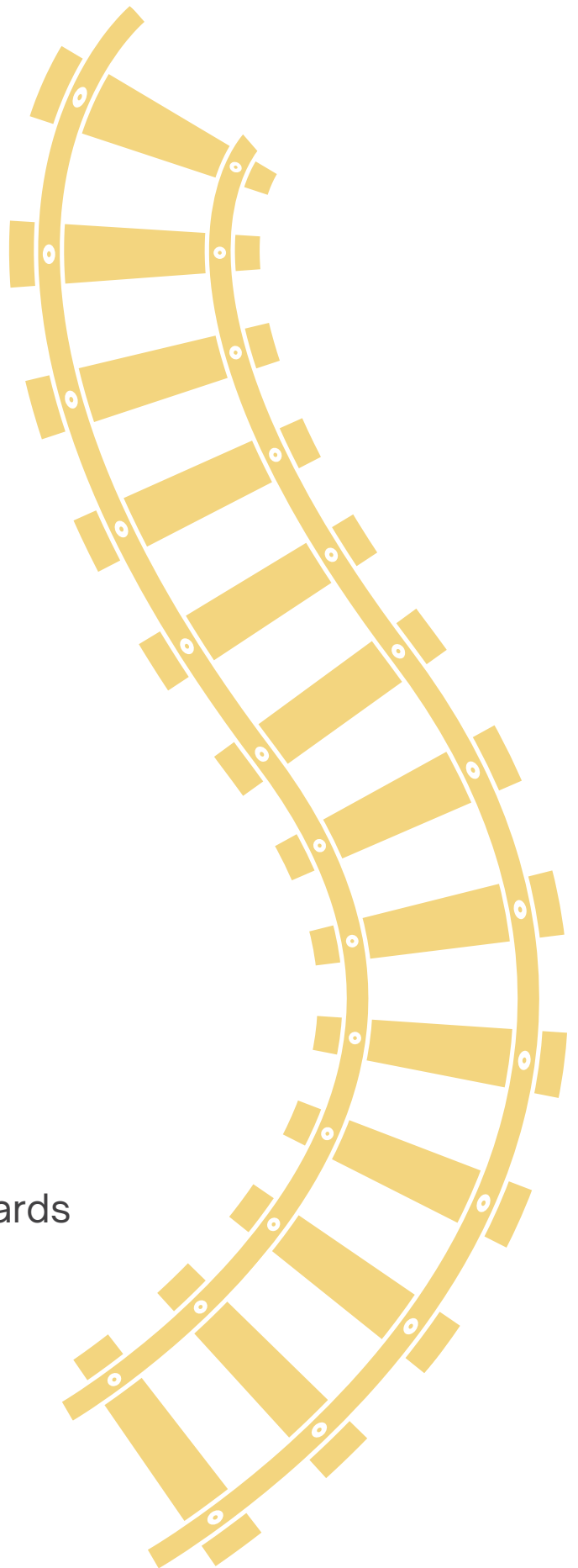
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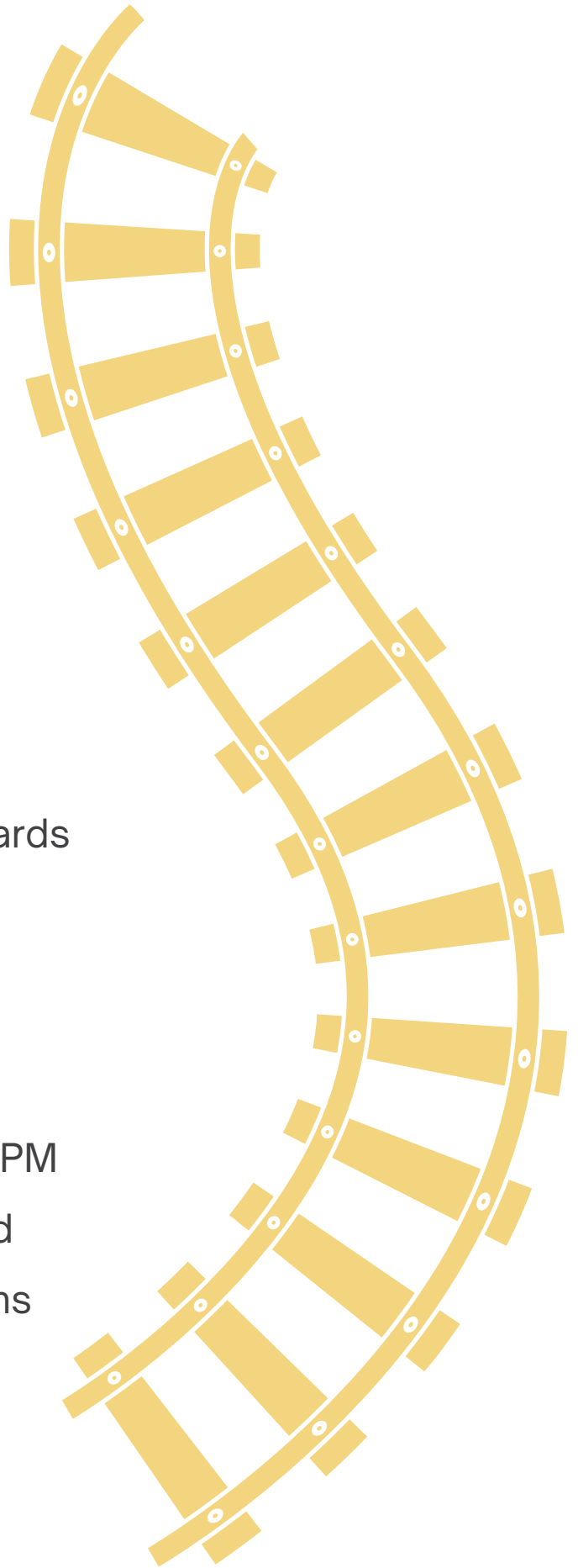




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Updates & Notifications

For the 2025 Awards Program, please note the following updates:

- Video Submissions:
 - Only awards eligible for advancement to the JCI Conference of the Americas and/or JCI World Congress now **require** a video submission
 - Photo remain **required** for all categories
 - Videos are still strongly encouraged as supplemental material to assist judges, even when not required
- New Awards Portal
 - All submissions, certifications, and forms will be handled exclusively through the new Awards Portal on the JCI USA Website
 - Email submissions and Google submissions will no longer be accepted



To Our Incredible Members

Dear JCI USA,

I want to thank you for taking the time to participate in the Awards & Recognition Program! If you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to reach out- there truly are no silly questions. If this is your first time submitting award nominations, you might be wondering why it's worth doing. The answer is simple: you're working on incredible projects with exceptional people, and we want to highlight and celebrate them!

Since we can't be everywhere, we rely on you to help us recognize the outstanding efforts happening within your chapter and/or state. One key piece of advice: provide as much detail as possible in your nominations. The more information you share, the better we can understand why the nominee deserves recognition. We want to hear their story and see those awesome photos!

I'm excited to see the amazing and impactful nominations you'll be submitting. Again, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jessi Neighbors, IL
2025 JCI USA Program Manager





Purpose

The JCI USA Memorial Awards and Recognitions Program is designed to recognize the impact of our members' efforts at the local, state, and national levels. This impact can be through projects, chapter/state management, and/or recruitment efforts.

General Eligibility Requirements

- State and local organizations MUST have all 2026 dues paid in full by January 31, 2026 to be eligible.
- Recognition is based on progress made between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.
 - Multi-year projects that are submitted must be completed during the 2025 calendar year to be eligible.
- All decisions of the JCI USA Awards Committee and JCI USA National President are final and irrevocable.
- Please ensure you read all submission requirements carefully to ensure all required items are submitted
- Entries must be submitted via the digital format provided by the JCI USA Awards Committee
 - Extra pictures or other substantiation may be submitted with the form. These items should enhance the form submission and are not to replace content on the form.
- Once an entry has been submitted by a chapter, the entry must then be approved by the President of the State Organization who held office during the 2025 awards year.
 - If there is no state level with a presiding State President, then the JCI USA National Vice President (NVP) assigned to that state will be the certifying official for all award entries
- All individuals nominated for recognition must be members in good standing as of December 31, 2025
 - Only entries that are certified by a State President of a JCI USA NVP will be eligible for consideration in the JCI USA Memorial Awards Program



Presidential Certification

2025 State Presidents must certify their state's submission using the Certification Form, available through the Awards Portal on JCI USA's website by November 1, 2025. The form will:

- List projects, programs, and individual honors designated for submission by the state organization.
- Collect the names and contact information of judges being provided by the state.

There is no penalty if a state certifies a chapter or member but no entry is ultimately submitted.

Certification forms must be submitted in the Awards Portal no later than **December 15, 2025, at 11:59 PM HST.**

Submissions

All submissions must be completed through the Awards Portal. The portal will open **November 1, 2025, and close on December 31, 2025, at 11:59 PM HST.** Submissions received after this deadline, or without proper certification, will not be considered.

Submission forms will be available in the Awards Portal starting November 1, 2025, allowing time for preparation before the deadline.

Once a submission is complete, you will receive a confirmation email from the Awards Portal. If no confirmation is received, resubmit your entry. For assistance, contact the JCI USA Awards PM at awards@jciususa.org

File Naming & Formats

Please follow the approved naming convention for all attachments.

AwardName_StateOrganization_Project/Nominee

Examples:

- *Nothing But Nets Poker Run in Texas*: UNSDG_TX_NothingButNetsPokerRun.pdf
- *Outstanding State Officer from Florida*: Trafton_FL_Smith.pdf

Accepted file types: .mp3, .mp4, .pdf, .doc, .png, .jpg

Other file types may not be viewable in the portal. For large video files, upload to YouTube and provide the link within your submission to ensure compability.



State-Required Judges

Each State Organization that submits for recognition must also provide judges, based on the number of entries submitted:

Number of Entries	Minimum Judges Required
<11	1
11-20	2
21-30	4
31+	5

States may provide additional judges with the approval of the Awards PM. All judges, whether required or additional, are held to the same expectations.

Judge Qualifications & Expectations

A qualified judge is someone who:

- Has previously served as a National Awards Judge, submitted award nominations, or is approved by their state organization
- Is an active JCI USA member, JCI USA Ambassador, or JCI Senator
- Has been an active JCI member for at least one (1) year
- Is not serving as a 2025 State President or Immediate Past President

Judges are expected to:

- Complete the Judges Acknowledgement Form emailed to them by **December 31, 2025**
- Attend the Judges Orientation on **January 7, 2026 @ 8P CST**
 - If unable, contact the Awards PM to arrange an alternate orientation
- Review assigned submissions thoroughly
- Provide fair, unbiased scoring and constructive feedback by assigned deadlines
- Notify the Awards PM by **January 13, 2026** if unable to serve as a judge
 - States must provide an alternate judge by **January 15, 2026**

If a judge fails to meet these expectations, 10% of the total points awarded to that state will be deducted per non-compliant judge



When Videos Are Required

Video submissions are **only required** for award categories that are eligible for submission to JCI. See **Appendix A** for the full list of awards that are eligible for submission to Conference of Americas and/or World Congress. For all other award categories, videos are optional but encouraged as supplemental material.

Video Guidelines

- Formal: MP4 or MOV, filmed horizontally
- Length: 30-45 seconds. Submissions outside of this range will receive a deduction
- Content:
 - May be filmed on a smartphone
 - Narration/voiceover is required (either live or added)
 - Video quality is not judged; content and clarity are the focus.
- Submission: Upload directly into the Awards Portal. For large files, use YouTube and provide the link in your submission

File Naming & Formats

- Submit 2-3 photos per section of the submission form to showcase planning, execution, and impact.
- Photos must be relevant to the section (no duplicates)
- Required headshots: some categories specifically call for a member or family photo. Please review category instructions.

Deductions

- Missing video: 10% deduction
- Video under 30 seconds or over 45 seconds: 5% deduction
- Fewer than required photos: 5% deduction

Shared Media & Documentation

Any supporting items submitted with your entry (photos, videos, social media posts, letters of recommendation, press releases, etc.) may be used by JCI USA for promotional purposes.

- Supplemental materials should enhance the submission form but not replace it.
- Review each award category carefully- some require specific items (e.g., headshots, letters of recommendation).
- Ensure all files follow the approved naming conventions for clarity and consistency

Notifications & Updates

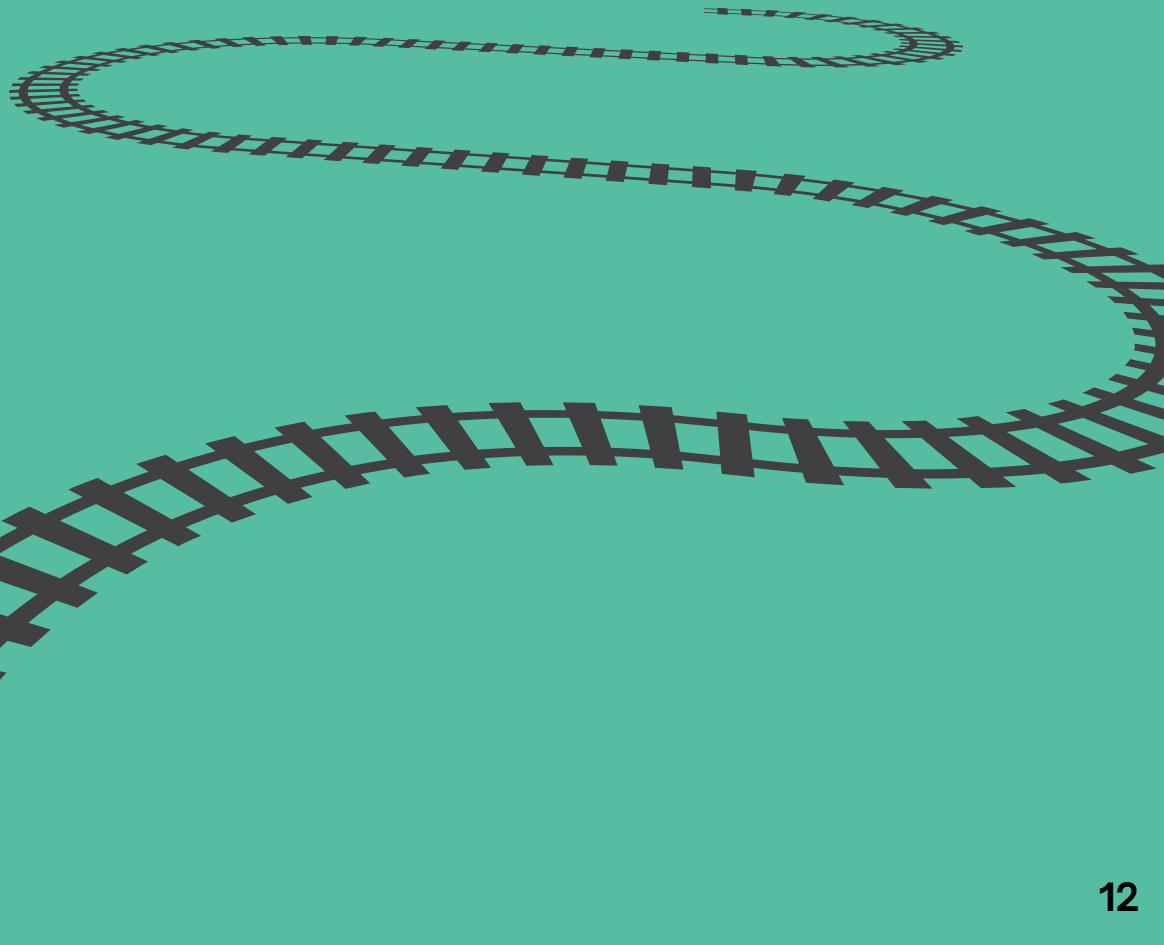
Stay informed throughout the awards process:

- Watch for confirmation emails from the Awards Portal after each submission
- Monitor your inbox for updates from the Awards Committee
- Follow JCI USA's official social media channels for reminders, announcements, and additional resources.



LOCAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

The following awards recognize outstanding local chapter projects and achievements. Each entry must be submitted in the appropriate category based on its **primary purpose**.



Most Outstanding Local Chapter Single Project Entry



Each Single Project Entry must be placed into **one** of the following eight (8) categories. These categories are recognized by both JCI USA and JCI.

Categories & Criteria

- **Local Economic Development Program:** Programs conducted with the goals of creating, increasing, or improving business and economic opportunities and/or productivity in the local community. Also, this includes strategic planning projects and programs conducted to raise funds to pay for the operation and expenses of the local JCI chapter. Projects that obtain positive recognition for the chapter or establish, maintain, or improve a favorable relationship between the chapter and the public would fall under this category.
 - *Examples:* Chamber of Commerce involvement, fundraising events (e.g. Haunted Houses, Raffle), Board Retreats, Distinguished Service Awards, Marketing Training
 - *Judging Criteria:* Objectives, planning, finance, execution, impact on chapter, brand awareness, economy impact, and stakeholders.
- **Inter-Organization Collaboration Project:** Projects conducted to provide benefit to chapters and their members from collaborating with members of other JCI USA and JCI organizations. Local chapters can increase their impact by working together with other organizations. This category also includes some projects conducted for State, JCI USA, and JCI emphasis programs
 - *Example:* Twinning, state, JCI USA and JCI emphasis programs, multi-chapter partnerships
 - *Judging Criteria:* Objectives, planning, finance, execution, impact on organization, brand awareness, finances, and long-term value, added value to JCI and stakeholders
- **Local Personal Skill Development Program:** Programs conducted that further the JCI USA Mission by creating development opportunities for young people to create positive change and developing the skills of individuals. This category also includes projects that provide social opportunities (chapter activities), as well as family involvement opportunities for chapter members and their families.
 - *Example:* Time Management, Public Speaking, Family Day at the Zoo, Movie Night, New Member Orientation, Putt-Putt Golfing, Chapter Awards
 - *Judging Criteria:* Objectives, planning, finance, execution, added value to JCI members and stakeholders, impact on local organizations brand awareness, impact on local organizations membership growth, impact on local organizations finances, long term impact

Most Outstanding Local Chapter Single Project Entry



Each Single Project Entry must be placed into **one** of the following eight (8) categories. These categories are recognized by both JCI USA and JCI.

Categories & Criteria

- **Local Growth & Development:** Programs conducted that aim to grow JCI USA to create development opportunities for more young people in their community. This category includes member recruitment, and recruitment drives to establish new chapters or save existing chapters.
 - *Examples:* M-Nights, Door-to-Door Membership Recruiting, Growth Week Activities, Chartering a Chapter
 - *Judging Criteria:* Objectives, planning, finance, execution, impact on local organizations' membership growth, impact on brand awareness, added value to JCI members and stakeholders, impact on local organizations' finances, long-term impact
- **Local Community Empowerment Program: [William B. Roberston Award:](#)** Programs conducted that are designed to promote or improve the quality of life for people in the community and assist with community needs and extend the JCI USA Mission. Included in this category would be projects that raise funds for non-JCI USA programs and charities in the local community and for children and youth, which promote and encourage their involvement in activities and/or the learning of personal and leadership skills. Government involvement in all areas of the local, state, and national governmental process, plus projects designed to provide the education of laws and governmental processes would be in this category. Also included in this category are projects conducted to improve the natural world, especially the preservation, management, and care of natural and community resources.
 - *Examples:* Meals on Wheels, Blood Drives, Political Debates, Adopt-a-Highway, Reading Programs, Community Fundraisers
 - *Judging Criteria:* Objectives, planning, finance, execution, added value to JCI members and stakeholders, impact on local organization, brand awareness, impact on local membership growth, impact on local finances, long-term impact of the project.
- **Long-Term Local Community Development Project: [Dr. Jerry Bruce Memorial Award:](#)** Projects and programs run more than one year to improve the community and extend the JCI USA Mission. Similar to the “Local Community Empowerment Program”, but duration is greater than one year.
 - *Example:* See “Local Community Empowerment Program” category
 - *Judging Criteria:* Objectives, planning, finance, education, added value to JCI members and stakeholders, impact on local brand awareness, impact on local membership growth, impact on local finances, long-term impact

Most Outstanding Local Chapter Single Project Entry



Each Single Project Entry must be placed into **one** of the following eight (8) categories. These categories are recognized by both JCI USA and JCI.

Categories & Criteria

- **Local Global Goals Project:** In 2015, the world agreed to an ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and 169 associated targets. The SDGs seek to catalyze a new development paradigm that treats social, economic, and environmental progress as indivisible. Efforts to protect, restore, sustainably manage, and equitably share the benefits of biodiversity will be essential to advancing the sustaining SDGs. Of particular importance is the role of biodiversity in reducing poverty, fostering food security, sustaining livelihoods, and generating economic growth. Projects entered into this category must be specific to one of the following goals:
 - Goal 1: No Poverty
 - Goal 2: Zero Hunger
 - Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being
 - Goal 4: Quality Education
 - Goal 5: Gender Equality
 - Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
 - Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
 - Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
 - Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
 - Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities
 - Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
 - Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
 - Goal 13: Climate Action
 - Goal 14: Life Below Water
 - Goal 15: Life on Land
 - Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
 - Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals
- *Examples:* For the best examples of Global Goals projects, visit jci.cc and find the heading “Programs”, select “Project Gallery”, and then use the dropdown menu to choose from your options. If you have any issues, contact the JCI USA Awards Committee
- *Judging Criteria:* Objectives, planning, finance, execution, impact on local brand awareness, added value to JCI members and stakeholders, impact on local membership growth, long-term impact of project, impact on local finances

Most Outstanding Local Chapter Single Project Entry

Each Single Project Entry must be placed into **one** of the following eight (8) categories. These categories are recognized by both JCI USA and JCI.

Categories & Criteria

- **Best Local Peace Project:** Projects focused on the UN's SDGs with the intent to educate and create dialogue across cultures, demographics, genders, ages, societal issues, and communities. With the objective of creating peace, locally and globally, these projects are of benefit to communities and individuals working together towards the greater good.
 - *Examples:* Anti-Bullying Campaign, Cross-Cultural Dialogue, International Day of Peace, Global/Climate Change Awareness, Peace Garden
 - *Judging Criteria:* Planning, finance, execution, cooperation for the 'Sake of World Peace', community impact, impact of local organization, and long-term impact





SPE Submission Guidelines

- A project may only be entered into **one** category per year
- Each state may submit up to **three (3) projects per category**
- Each submission must be **completed in full, have video, and photos**
- Additional substantiation (press releases, letters, extra photos) is encouraged

Judging Criteria

- Objectives, Planning, Finance, Execution
- Impact on brand awareness, membership growth, and community
- Added value to JCI members and stakeholders
- Long-term project impact

Recognition

- Up to **10 projects per category** may be recognized annually
- One (1) top project per category may advance to JCI Conference of the Americas and/or JCI World Congress
- Only submissions meeting the minimum scoring threshold will be recognized

Best Project of the Year

From the top winners in each of the eight (8) SPE categories, one project will be selected as the **Best Project of the Year** and honored during the JCI USA Awards Ceremony



Most Outstanding Local Chapters

These awards recognize overall chapter excellence in programming, growth, and leadership

Most Outstanding **NEW** Local Organizations- Hampton Whetsell, III Memorial Award

Presented annually to new chapters conducting the most outstanding activities and programming during their first year of affiliation.

- *Eligibility:* First year of activities must conclude between **January 1- December 31, 2025**
- *Advancement:* Top winner is eligible to compete at JCI Conference of the Americas (COA) and, if successful, JCI World Congress

About Hampton Whetsell III:

Mr. Whetsell's desire to be the best and his will to succeed were recognized during the Annual Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was presented with the JCI USA "Chapter Pacesetters" award for the largest extension (113 members) in a community of between 850-2,500 people. A member for only five months, he was the Chapter President of the Bowman, South Carolina Junior Chamber. On August 18, 1989, he lost his life in an auto accident while driving home from working on a chapter extension.

Most Outstanding Local Organizations- Clarence H. Howard Memorial Award

Presented annually to the most outstanding established chapters (chartered prior to January 1, 2025) with exceptional programming.

- *Advancement:* Top winner is eligible to compete for the Harold A. Marks Memorial Award

About Clarence H. Howard:

While President of the St. Louis Chamber, Mr. Howard was a major contributor to Henry Giessenbier's successes in founding the St. Louis Junior Chamber and JCI USA.

Most Outstanding Local Chapters

These awards recognize overall chapter excellence in programming, growth, and leadership

Most Outstanding Chapter in the Nation- Harold A. Marks Memorial Award

The highest achievement a chapter can attain in the JCI USA Organization. Awarded to one of the Clarence H. Howard winners and recognized as the Most Outstanding Junior Chamber Chapter in the Nation.

- *Eligibility:* Must have submitted and received the Clarence H. Howard Award. Year-to-date membership growth is required.
- *Advancement:* Eligible to compete for “Most Outstanding Local Organization” at COA and, if successful, World Congress.

About Harold A. Marks:

Mr. Marks served as the National Director of the Arizona Jaycees in 1935-1936. He passed away in March 1938 while flying to the installation of a new chapter.

There is no submission for this award, as consideration requires that a chapter must have submitted and recieved the Clarence H. Howard Memorial Award.





Most Outstanding Local Chapters

These awards recognize overall chapter excellence in programming, growth, and leadership

Submission Guidelines

- Each state may submit up to **five (5)** chapters for the Clarence H. Howard Award
- Each state may submit up to **two (2)** chapters for the Hampton Wetsell Award
- No direct submissions for the Harold A. Marks Award- eligibility requires first being recognized with the Clarence H. Howard Award
- Submissions must include:
 - Completed submission form through the Awards Portal
 - The Local Chapter's Annual Report

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on the chapter's overall strategy, implementation, and impact. Key factors include:

- Strategic Plan and Recruitment Strategy
- Brand awareness, membership growth, and financial surplus
- Individual Development Programs and Results
- Community Development Programs and Results
- International Development Programs and Results
- Economic/Business Development Programs and Results

Recognition

- Up to **three (3)** chapters recognized with the Hampton Whetsell Award
- Up to **five (5)** chapters recognized with the Clarence H. Howard Award
- **One (1)** Clarence H. Howard winner selected as the Harold A. Marks Award recipient
- All winners recognized at the JCI USA Awards Ceremony



Most Outstanding Local Chapters

These awards recognize overall chapter excellence in programming, growth, and leadership

Most Outstanding Innovation from a Chapter-Visionary Award

Presented annually to the local chapter that best exemplifies the JCI Mission and Vision through innovation in the face of adversity,

Focus Areas:

- Creativity and agility in responding to challenges
- Development of new projects or adaptations when traditional efforts were disrupted (e.g., pandemic, natural disaster, community tragedy)
- Embodiment of the vision and spirit of JCI founder Henry Giessenbier

Submission Guidelines

- Each state may submit up to **five (5)** chapters
- Actions and achievements must have occurred between January 1- December 31, 2025
- Submissions must include:
 - Completed Submission Form through the Awards Portal
 - Supporting substantiation (photos, videos, documents)
 - Optional but encouraged: Letters of recommendation from collaborating organizations or municipalities.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on:

- Innovation, agility, and quick thinking under pressure
- Creation of new projects to address adversity
- Exemplification of Henry Giessenbier's visionary spirit

Recognition

Up to **three (3)** chapters will be recognized with the Visionary Award at the JCI USA Awards Ceremony

Most Outstanding Local Members



These awards honor outstanding individuals and families who exemplify the JCI Mission and Vision through their actions, impact, and leadership.

JCI USA Youth Spotlight

Recognizes a child of an active JCI member- including those affiliated with a JCI Youth Chapter- who has demonstrated outstanding performance in support of their parent's JCI chapter.

Most Outstanding *NEW* Member- C. William Brownfield Memorial Award

Presented annually to new members who best exemplify the JCI Mission and Vision during their **first year of membership**.

- *Eligibility:* First year of activities must conclude between January 1- December 31, 2025
- *Advancement:* Top winner is eligible to compete at JCI Conference of the Americas (COA), and if successful, at JCI World Congress

This award is based on the following criteria:

- Individual's impact on local organizations
- Community impact through individual's actions
- Participation in training and business programs
- Participation in local, state, national, and JCI events
- Exemplification of JCI USA values in JCI activities and in personal life

About C. William "Bill" Brownfield:

Author of the JCI Creed, Brownfield recognized the enthusiasm and energy first-year members bring to the movement.

Most Outstanding Local Members



These awards honor outstanding individuals and families who exemplify the JCI Mission and Vision through their actions, impact, and leadership.

Most Outstanding Local Members- John H. Armbruster Memorial Award

Presented annually to local members who exemplify the JCI Mission and Vision through their impact on the organization and community.

- *Advancement:* Top winner is eligible to compete at COA, and if successful, at JCI World Congress

About John H. Armbruster:

A charter member of the St. Louis Junior Chamber, Armbruster founded *The Junior Chamber Crew Club* and published the *Log of the S.S. Fellowship*, keeping members connected for over 40 years.

Most Outstanding Families- Andrew & Charlotte Mungenast Memorial Award

Recognizes families who promote and exemplify the objectives and beliefs of the JCI Creed.

- *Eligibility:* A “family” may be a married couple (with or without children), a single parent with children, an unmarried couple residing together 12+ months, or siblings living in the same household. At least one family member must be a JCI member in good standing. Families may win once every **five (5)** years.

About Andrew & Charlotte Mungenast:

Andrew was a founder of JCI USA and its first Secretary. Charlotte, remembered as the “First Lady of the Jaycees”, was a strong supporter of the organization

Most Outstanding Local Members



These awards honor outstanding individuals and families who exemplify the JCI Mission and Vision through their actions, impact, and leadership.

Submission Guidelines

- Each state may submit up to **five (5)** members or families
- Submissions must include:
 - The Completed Submission Form through the Awards Portal
 - A headshot of the member, or a family photo suitable for promotional use
- Members of the current or past JCI USA Executive Team and Board of Directors are not eligible for the C. William Brownfield nor the John H. Armbruster Award. They are eligible for the Andrew & Charlotte Mungenast Memorial Award.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on:

- Leadership, motivation, and inspiration
- Community Impact
- Impact on the local organization
- Participation in local, state, national, and JCI events
- Exemplification of JCI USA values in JCI activities and personal life

Recognition

- Up to **three (3)** members or families will be recognized annually
- Winners will be honored during the JCI USA Awards Ceremony

Most Outstanding Local Members



These awards honor outstanding individuals and families who exemplify the JCI Mission and Vision through their actions, impact, and leadership.

Most Outstanding Individual Growth of a Member- Empowerment Award

Presented annually to members who best exemplify the JCI Mission and Vision through personal and professional growth outside of their JCI experiences. The name reflects JCI's underlying "WHY" of empowerment.

Submission Guidelines

- Each state may submit up to **five (5)** members
- Eligible members may serve in any role within JCI during 2025
- Accomplishments cited may include achievements before or during 2025
- Submissions must include:
 - The official Submission Form in the Awards Portal
 - A headshot photo (may be used for promotional purposes)
- *Optional but encouraged:* Letters of recommendation from organizations or municipalities that collaborated with the chapter.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on:

- Demonstrated leadership and personal/professional growth beyond JCI
- Self-motivation, ambition, and perseverance
- Impact and participation in the broader community
- Exemplification of JCI's WHY: Empowerment

Recognition

Up to **three (3)** members will be recognized annually at the JCI USA Awards Ceremony

Most Outstanding Local Officers



These awards recognize exceptional leadership and service by local chapter officers and presidents.

Most Outstanding Local Chapter Officer- Heidi Juttner Memorial Award

Presented annually to the most outstanding local chapter officer (excluding Chapter President and Immediate Past President). Eligible positions include Vice President, Program Manager, Secretary, Treasurer, or other chapter board roles.

About Heidi Juttner:

A Florida Jaycee, Heidi served as Local Chapter President, Florida State President, and on the National Training Task Force. She passed away from cancer in 2011.

Most Outstanding Local President- Charles Kulp, Jr. Memorial Award

Presented annually to the most outstanding Local Presidents in the nation.

- *Advancement:* Top winner is eligible to compete at JCI Conference of the Americas and, if successful, at JCI Work Congress
- *Eligibility:* Nominee's chapter must demonstrate year-to-date membership growth

About Charles Kulp, Jr.:

A Delaware Jaycee, Kulp served as Local President in Wilmington and as Delaware State President. He died of cancer in 1979.

Most Outstanding Local Officers



These awards honor outstanding individuals and families who exemplify the JCI Mission and Vision through their actions, impact, and leadership.

Submission Guidelines

- Each state may submit up to **five (5)** Local Officers and up to **three (3)** Local Presidents
- Members of the current or past JCI USA Executive Team and Board of Directors are not eligible for the Juttner or Kulp Awards
- Submissions must include:
 - The official Submission Form through the Awards Portal
 - A headshot photo suitable for promotional use

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on:

- Leadership, motivation, and inspiration
- Impact on the local organization
- Participation in local, state, national, and international events
- Exemplification of JCI USA values in JCI activities and personal life

Recognition

- Up to **five (5)** Local Officers will be recognized with the Juttner Award
- Up to **three (3)** Local Presidents will be recognized with the Kulp Award
- Winners will be honored during the JCI USA Awards Ceremony

STATE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The following awards highlight the achievements of state organizations, programs, and officers who drive growth and development across JCI USA.





Most Outstanding State Programs

These awards highlight the achievements of state organizations, programs, and officers who drive growth and development across JCI USA.

Best State Flagship Program- Dennis Hamilton Memorial Award

Recognizes the top state flagship programs that contribute to the JCI USA Mission and Vision while engaging members and chapters across the state.

- *Judging Criteria:* Strategy and implementation, participation of chapters/members, brand awareness, PR, partnerships, finances, long-term impact
- *Advancement:* Top winner is eligible to compete for “Best National Flagship Program” at COA and, if successful, JCI World Congress

About Dennis Hamilton:

Administrative VP of the Oklahoma Jaycees, Hamilton died in a plane crash in 1973 at the age of 30.

Best State Growth & Development Program- Steve Little Memorial Award

Recognizes the top state programs focused on organizational growth and development.

- *Judging Criteria:* Strategy, involvement of state board/members, implementation methods, results, long-term impact
- *Advancement:* Top winner is eligible to compete for “Best National Growth & Development Program” at COA and, if successful, JCI World Congress.

About Steve Little:

President of the Wisconsin Jaycees, Little died in a car accident in 1982 en route to a JCI USA meeting.

Submission Guidelines

- Each state may submit up to **two (2)** programs in each category

Recognition

- Up to **three (3)** programs in each category recognized annually at the JCI USA Awards Ceremony



Most Outstanding State Programs

These awards highlight the achievements of state organizations, programs, and officers who drive growth and development across JCI USA.

Most Outstanding State Organizations- George O. Wilson Memorial Award

Recognizes the most outstanding state organizations for overall excellence in programming and leadership

- *Judging Criteria:* Plan of action, recruitment strategy, results in individual/community/international/economic development, and impact on brand awareness

About George O. Wilson:

George O. Wilson served as JCI USA National President (1921-2922)

Submission Guidelines

- Each state may submit up to **one (1)** entry with substantiation (photos, videos, or documents)

Recognition

- Up to **three (3)** state organizations recognized annually at the JCI USA Awards Ceremony



Most Outstanding State Officer

These awards highlight the achievements of state organizations, programs, and officers who drive growth and development across JCI USA.

Most Outstanding State Membership Director

Presented to the top state officers in membership-focused role (e.g., Membership, Region, District). Current and past State Presidents are not eligible.

Most Outstanding State Auxiliary Officer or Committee Member

Recognizes exceptional contributions by state auxiliary officers or committee members.

Most Outstanding State Executive Officers- R. Bradley Trafton Award

Presented to the most outstanding executive officers (e.g., Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer). Current and past State Presidents are not eligible.

About R. Bradley Trafton:

A New Hampshire Jaycee and past JCI USA staff officer who served in multiple leadership roles.



Most Outstanding State Officer

These awards highlight the achievements of state organizations, programs, and officers who drive growth and development across JCI USA.

Most Outstanding State Presidents- Allen Whitfield Memorial Award

Recognizes State Presidents who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to JCI.

About Allen Whitfield:

Whitfield served as JCI USA National President (1936-1937)

Most Outstanding State President in the Nation- Clayton Frost Memorial Award

Recognizes the top State President in the country, selected by the National President from among Whitfield Award recipients

- *Eligibility:* State must be at year-to-date growth and must have submitted for and received the Whitfield Award

About Clayton Frost:

Former North Carolina State President Frost died in 1946 in an automobile accident while returning from a chapter installation.



Most Outstanding State Officer

These awards highlight the achievements of state organizations, programs, and officers who drive growth and development across JCI USA.

Submission Guidelines

Each state may submit:

- Up to **two (2)** Membership Directors
- Up to **two (2)** Auxiliary Officers or Committee Members
- Up to **two (2)** Executive Officers
- Up to **one (1)** State President

All submissions require the official Submission Form completed through the Awards Portal and a headshot suitable for promotional use.

Judging Criteria

- Leadership, motivation, and inspiration
- Impact on the state organization
- Participation in state, national, and international events
- Exemplification of JCI USA values

Recognition

- Up to **three (3)** recognized in each officer category
- Up to **five (5)** State Presidents recognized with the Whitfield Award
- **One (1)** State President recognized with the Frost Award

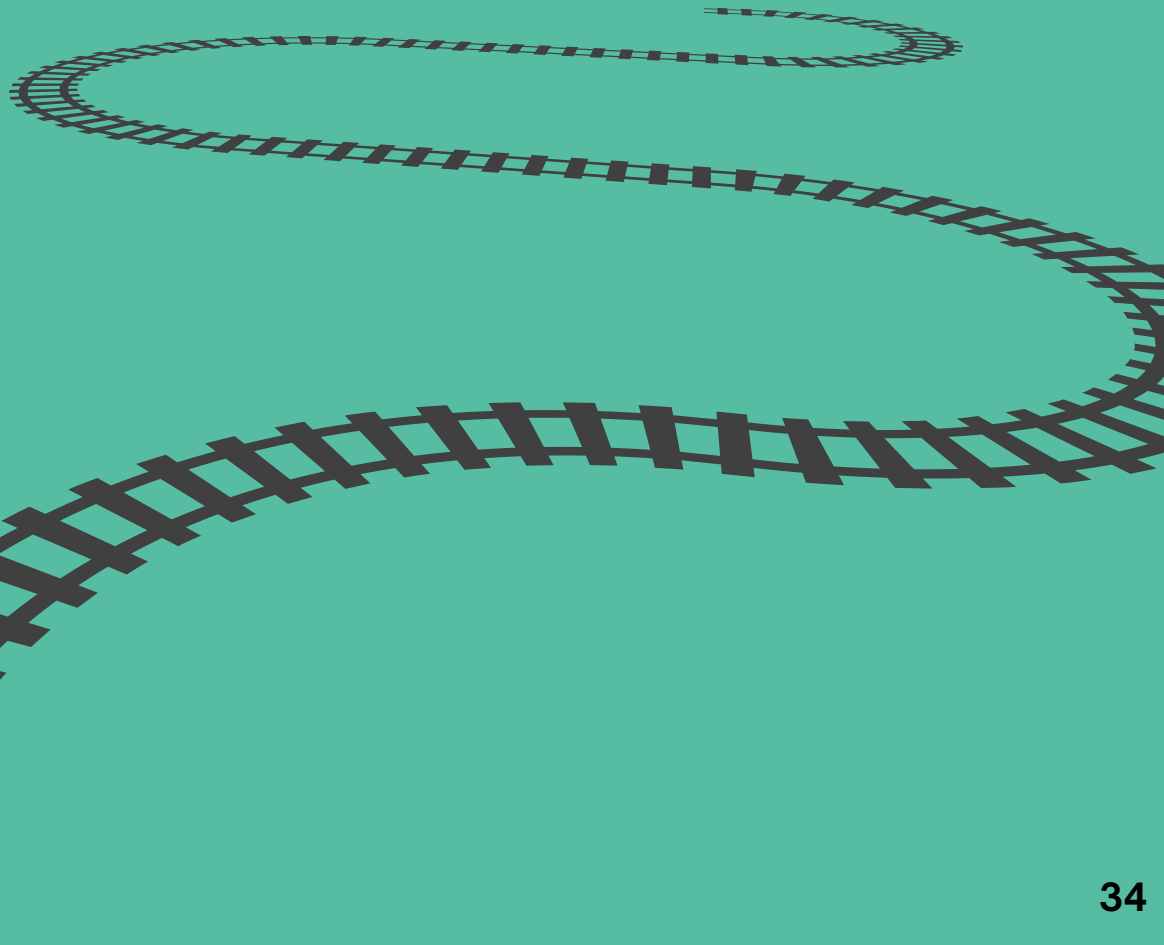
NATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

These awards honor national leaders, partners, and members who demonstrate exceptional service and impact at the highest level of JCI USA



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Outstanding National Program Manager

Recognizes the most outstanding JCI USA Program Managers each year.

Submission Guidelines

- Any JCI USA Executive Committee Member may nominate a Program Manager by submitting a letter of recommendation to the JCI USA President
- Letters must be submitted via the Awards Portal no later than December 31, 2025 at 11:59 PM HST

Judging Criteria

- Administration and communication
- Leadership, motivation, and inspiration of members
- Impact on projects
- Participation in state, national, and international events
- Exemplification of JCI USA values

Recognition

- The National President selects the recipients
- Up to **three (3)** Program Managers recognized annually



Most Outstanding National Vice President- Don Cavelli Memorial Award

Presented annually to the most outstanding National Vice President

About Don Cavelli:

A Utah Jaycee and former State President, Cavelli served as National Vice President and passed away in 1977 from a rare blood disease.

Submission Guidelines

- Any JCI USA Board Member (including State Presidents) may submit a letter of support for a National Vice President
- Letters must be submitted to the Awards Portal no later than December 31, 2025 at 11:59 PM HST

Judging Criteria

- Administration and communication
- Leadership, motivation, and inspiration of members
- Impact on projects
- Participation in state, national, and international events
- Exemplification of JCI USA values

Recognition

- Recipient selected by the National President



Special Partner Award- Rob Ray Memorial Award

Presented annually to the spouses and significant others of State and National Officers who go above and beyond in supporting JCI service.

About Rob Ray:

This award honors Rob Ray's legacy of unwavering support to the JCI movement through his dedication to keeping the home fires burning while his significant other worked for the organization.

Submission Guidelines

- Each state may submit **one (1)** nomination
- Submissions must include:
 - A recommendation letter
 - A headshot photo suitable for promotional use
- Deadline: December 31, 2025, at 11:59 PM HST via the Awards Portal

Recognition

- The National President selects up to **five (5)** recipients annually



Top Membership Recruiters (25+)

Recognizes members who recruited 25 or more new members into JCI USA during the 2025 calendar year

- *Submission Guidelines:*
 - Each state must certify and submit the names of qualifying individuals via the Awards Portal
- *Recognition:*
 - Verified by the National Membership Director and National President
 - Unlimited number of members may be recognized

Chapter Growth (Double/Triple)

Recognizes local chapters that doubled or tripled their January 1, 2025 membership total during the year.

- *Submission Guidelines:*
 - State Presidents certify qualifying chapters through the Awards Portal
 - Growth will be verified by the National Membership Director and National President to confirm increases were not due to roster corrections
- *Recognition:*
 - Unlimited number of chapters may be recognized

Presidential Medallions

Each year, the National President recognizes individuals who were instrumental in carrying out the vision of JCI USA during their presidential year.

- *Submission:*
 - There is no submission process- honorees are selected directly by the National President
- *Recognition:*
 - Up to **fifty (50)** individuals may be awarded Presidential Medallions during the JCI USA Awards Ceremony





Appendices

A

Awards Reference Chart

Quick reference for submissions, maximum entries, review process, and advancement eligibility

B

Best Practices

Tips to strengthen submissions

C

National Submissions for International Awards

Lists JCI USA awards that advance to JCI International competitions

D

Scoring Rubrics

Outlines questions, scoring breakdowns, and connections to the JCI USA and JCI Plan of Action



Appendices

E

2025 National Awards Committee

Contact information for the JCI USA Awards Committee

F

Key Dates & Timelines

Eligibility, certification timeline, submission timelines, judges timeline, and virtual office hours



Local Recognition Awards

<u>Award</u>	<u>State Submissions Allowed</u>	<u>Recognitions</u>	<u>Reviewed By</u>	<u>Advancement</u>
Single Project Entries: SPE 8 Categories	Up to 3 per category	Up to 10 per category	General Judges	Yes- COA and/or WC
Most Outstanding New Local Org: Whetsell	Up to 2	Up to 3	General Judges	Yes- COA and/or WC
Most Outstanding Local Org: Howard	Up to 5	Up to 5	General Judges	N/A
Most Outstanding Chapter in the Nation: Marks	N/A- Selected from Howard winners	1	National President	Yes- COA and/or WC
Visionary Award	Up to 5	Up to 3	General Judges	N/A
Empowerment Award	Up to 5	Up to 3	General Judges	N/A
Most Outstanding New Member: Brownfield	Up to 5	Up to 3	General Judges	Yes- COA and/or WC



Local Recognition Awards

<u>Award</u>	<u>State Submissions Allowed</u>	<u>Recognitions</u>	<u>Reviewed By</u>	<u>Advancement</u>
Most Outstanding Member: Armbruster	Up to 5	Up to 3	General Judges	Yes- COA and/or WC
Most Outstanding Families: Mungenast	Up to 5	Up to 3	General Judges	N/A
Most Outstanding Local Officer: Juttner	Up to 5	Up to 3	General Judges	N/A
Most Outstanding Local President: Kulp	Up to 3	Up to 3	General Judges	Yes- COA and/or WC
Youth Spotlight	Up to 5	Up to 3	General Judges	N/A



State Recognition Awards

<u>Award</u>	<u>State Submissions Allowed</u>	<u>Recognitions</u>	<u>Reviewed By</u>	<u>Advancement</u>
Best State Flagship Programs: Hamilton	Up to 2	Up to 3	General Judges	Yes- COA and/or WC
Best State Growth & Development: Little	Up to 2	Up to 3	General Judges	Yes- COA and/or WC
Most Outstanding State Org: Wilson	1	Up to 3	General Judges	N/A
State Membership Director	Up to 2	Up to 3	General Judges	N/A
State Auxiliary Officer/Committee Member	Up to 2	Up to 3	General Judges	N/A
State Executive Officers: Trafton	Up to 2	Up to 3	General Judges	N/A
Most Outstanding State Presidents- Whitfield	1	Up to 5	National President	N/A

State Recognition Awards

<u>Award</u>	<u>State Submissions Allowed</u>	<u>Recognitions</u>	<u>Reviewed By</u>	<u>Advancement</u>
Most Outstanding State President in the Nation: Frost	N/A (Selected from Whitfield winners)	1	National President	N/A



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National Recognition Awards

<u>Award</u>	<u>State Submissions Allowed</u>	<u>Recognitions</u>	<u>Reviewed By</u>	<u>Advancement</u>
Outstanding Program Manager	Nominated by Excom	Up to 3	National President	N/A
Most Outstanding NVP: Cavelli	Nominated by BOD	1	National President	N/A
Special Partner: Rob Ray	1 per state	Up to 5	National President	N/A
Membership Recruiters (25+)	Unlimited	Unlimited	National President & MDD	N/A
Chapter Growth (Double/Triple)	Certified by State	Unlimited	National President & MDD	N/A
Presidential Medallions	Selected by NP	Up to 50	National President	N/A



Best Practices for Creating Nominations

Submitting an award nomination is more than filling out a form. It's about telling the story of your member, chapter, or program in a way that highlights impact and achievement. Use these tips to make your submission stand out:

1. Tell the Full Story

- a. Assume the judges know nothing about your project, nominee, or chapter
- b. Provide context: what problem existed, what actions were taken, and what impact resulted
- c. Paint a clear picture with both numbers and narrative

2. Be Specific and Measurable

- a. Replace vague statements with concrete details
 - i. Instead of “the member was very active”, try “the member attended 7 chapter meetings, chaired 3 projects, and recruited 4 new members.”
- b. Quantify results wherever possible (funds raised, members recruited, community impact, partnerships formed)

3. Keep it Clear and Concise

- a. Each answer should be focused and under 600 words
- b. Avoid jargon, filler, or repeating the same point
- c. Break longer answers into paragraphs for readability

4. Highlight Impact

- a. Go beyond describing what was done. Emphasize why it mattered. What changed because of this person, this chapter, or this project?
- b. Show the difference it made for the chapter, members, and community
- c. Where possible, link to broader goals (e.g., JCI Mission/Vision, UN SDGs)

5. Support with Evidence

- a. Use required photos and videos (required for JCI-eligible awards)
- b. Include supplemental materials: press releases, letters of recommendation, or social media posts
- c. Make sure all attachments follow the approved naming conventions

6. Proof, Review, Submit Early

- a. Run spell check and grammar review
- b. Ask another member to review for clarity and completeness
- c. Submit well before the deadline in case resubmissions are needed



National Submissions for International Awards

Certain JCI USA award winners are eligible for advancement to the JCI Conference of the Americas (COA) and the JCI World Congress. This appendix outlines which awards advance and what additional requirements apply.

Best of the Best Awards (Advance to JCI)

Winners of these categories are automatically submitted to JCI for international recognition:

- Best National Flagship Program: *via Dennis Hamilton Memorial Award*
- Most Outstanding Local Organization: *via Harold A. Marks Memorial Award*
- Most Outstanding New Local Organization: *via Hampton Whetsell, III Memorial Award*
- Best National Growth & Development Program: *via Steve Little Memorial Award*
- Most Outstanding New Member: *via John H. Armbruster Memorial Award*
- Most Outstanding Local President: *via Charles Kulp, Jr. Memorial Award*
- Most Outstanding National President

Multi-Entry Awards

JCI USA may submit more than one award entry per category, with a maximum of 10 entries per category. Those listed in parenthesis are the JCI USA categories:

- Best JCI RISE Project
- Best Local Business and Entrepreneurship Program
- Best Local Individual Development Program: *Personal Skills Development SPE*
- Best Local Growth and Development Program: *Growth & Development SPE*
- Best International Cooperation Project: *Inter-Org Collaboration SPE with Orgs. outside JCI*
- Best Local Community Impact Program: *Community Empowerment SPE, Long Term Community Development SPE, and Economic SPE*
- Best Local Global Goals Project: *Global Goals SPE, Peace SPE*



Scoring Rubrics

All award submissions are evaluated using standardized rubrics to ensure fairness and consistency. Each category has its own weighting to reflect the focus of that award (e.g., project execution, membership growth, community impact, or exemplification of JCI Values).

For members submitting entries, this means:

- Answer each section of the application clearly and completely
- Support your answers with both numbers (funds raised, members recruited, hours served) and stories (impact on people, communities, and organizations)
- Keep responses concise, but provide enough detail to show measurable results
- Attach required photos/videos and other substantiation to strengthen your nomination

For judges, the rubrics provide:

- Specific scoring categories and percentages for each award
- Clear criteria for evaluating objectives, planning, execution, impact, finances, and alignment with JCI Mission and Vision
- Space for both numerical scoring and written feedback

JCI Mission Statement:

To provide leadership development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change.

JCI Vision Statement:

To be the leading global network of young active citizens.

Accessing Forms & Resources

All awards forms, scoring rubrics, and certification forms will be available in the Awards Portal at www.jciusa.org



Meet the Team

Behind every award is a team committed to recognizing the impact of JCI USA members. This year's Awards Committee brings together leaders from across the nation to organize, review, and celebrate your submissions. For direct assistance, reach out to PM Jessi Neighbors or NVP Morgan Tedder- but the whole team is working hard to spotlight your success!



Bethanie Miller

JCI USA National President
bmiller@jciususa.org



Morgan Tedder

JCI USA National Vice President
mtedder@jciususa.org



Jessi Neighbors

JCI USA Awards Program Manager
awards@jciususa.org



Heather Resino

Awards Committee Member



Berta Meyer

Awards Committee Member



Brenna LaForge

Awards Committee Member



Bobbie Jo Call

Awards Committee Member



Key Dates & Deadlines

All deadlines are firm and listed in Hawaiian-Aleutian Standard Time (HST) unless otherwise noted. Please plan ahead to avoid last-minute issues.

Submissions

- Submission Portal Opens: November 1, 2025
- State Certifications Due: December 15, 2025, at 11:59 PM HST
- Final Submission Deadline: December 31, 2025, at 11:59 PM HST

Judges

- Judge Acknowledgement Form Due: December 31, 2025, at 11:59 PM HST
- Judges Orientation Meeting: January 7, 2026, at 8:00 PM CST (online-required)
- Submissions Distributed to Judges: January 10, 2026
- Alternate Judge Notification Deadline: January 15, 2026
- Judging Deadline: January 20, 2026, at 11:59 PM HST
- Notes:
 - States must provide judge contact information via the Certification Form
 - Judges must sign and submit their acknowledgement form before receiving assignments
 - Attendance at the January 7th orientation is mandatory for all judges
 - If a judge cannot serve, the Awards Committee must be notified by January 15 so an alternate can be assigned