

AWARDS

National Awards (<http://www.octa-trails.org/media/pdf/board/05%2003%20Awards.pdf>)

The Northwest Chapter Awards Committee is responsible for the NW Chapter OCTA awards and recognition program. The committee consists of three members whose chair is appointed by the chapter president. The Awards Committee Chair will appoint two additional committee members from the chapter general membership. It is desirable that at least one member, especially the chair, be a long-standing member of the Northwest Chapter who is generally familiar with both NW Chapter programs and goals. Committee appointees shall agree to serve for three-year terms, which shall be rotated to require one new appointment to the committee each year.

AWARDS NOMINATION PROCESS

The Northwest Chapter Awards Committee shall actively solicit nominations for the various award categories from the chapter general membership. The individual Awards Committee members may also submit additional individual or organization names in nomination during deliberations concerning award recipients. All nominations shall identify the party nominated, the category, and sufficient reasons justifying the award. In some circumstances, the committee may feel the nominee is more suitable for a category other than the nominator's choice. In this case, the committee can then change the category for which the nominee is being considered. Nominations for all OCTA awards shall be solicited officially in the official chapter newsletter, *Northwest Trails Journal*. Other methods may also be used for solicitation from the membership. In order to be considered, nominations must be received by the committee chair at least one month prior to the NWOCTA Annual Meeting.

AWARDS COMMITTEE FUNCTION

After the submission deadline, the Awards Committee chair shall distribute nominations to the full committee, who shall then deliberate and arrive at selections by category. If the committee decides the candidate does not meet specific criteria or the nomination is insufficiently documented to allow deliberation, the chair, at the committee's request, may seek additional documentation from the submitter. It bears emphasis that specific award for any or all categories do not necessarily have to be awarded each and every year. Recipients of awards will be recognized at the annual meeting or other appropriate time as directed by the Chapter Board of Directors.

AWARD CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

1. Ackerman Meritorious Service Award

The Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Service Award is the Northwest Chapter's highest honor. It is presented to one or more chapter members who have made substantial efforts in support of the chapter and its goals. This award recognizes accomplishments over several years, often in leadership and/or multiple capacities. Only chapter members qualify for the Meritorious Achievement Award. The recipient's efforts should be of benefit to the overall organization. Awards may be presented to individual members or to small member groups that have served the chapter in a unified capacity. As a rule, only one award per year will be given, but can vary from this guideline for unusual circumstances. Chapter Officers shall select the recipient.

2. Distinguished NW Volunteer Award

The Distinguished NW Volunteer Award is bestowed on chapter members who contribute significantly to achieving chapter goals and projects but do not rise to the elite status of the Ackerman Meritorious Service Award. Their efforts can be either substantial work on a short-term project or for efforts over a longer timeframe. Only chapter members qualify for Distinguished NW Volunteer Awards. Generally no more than one award per year will be awarded.

3. Distinguished NW Service Award

The Distinguished NW Service Award is the highest award for non-chapter contributions to NW OCTA directly or to historic trail preservation and education efforts throughout the northwest. It recognizes efforts by organizations, businesses, government agencies, individuals, or others who contribute or participate in furthering NW OCTA programs directly or provide substantial support in a nonaffiliated way to trail preservation and education. Recipients may be chapter members, but the recognized endeavors generally would be considered performed outside the auspices or purview of NW OCTA. Qualifying actions would be quite numerous and varied. Any number of deserving candidates could qualify each year, but should be kept to a small number.

4. Outstanding NW Educator Award

The Outstanding NW Educator Award is given to an educator who demonstrates an exceptional ability to interest students or teachers in the importance to the country of western migration trails, the importance of trail preservation, and the preservation of the stories of the people who used these trails. This award may be given by age level of students--elementary, middle school/junior high, high school, and post secondary.

5. Friend of NW Trails Award

The Friend of NW Trails Award is presented to individuals, groups, or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass. Neither property ownership nor residence on the property are requirements, but rather emphasis instead is placed on preservation of trail remnants, educating the public about their historic resources, and allowing responsible public access to the historic resources. Generally, the award is granted for demonstrated long-term interest in trail protection, but may be granted for important or unique isolated efforts. The number of awards granted in this category each year is not limited.

6. Young NW OCTAN Award

The Young NW OCTAN Award is presented to children and youth between the ages of six and twenty-one who have demonstrated particular interest in NW OCTA and the history and/or preservation of historic emigrant trails. The nominee will have demonstrated this interest by an activity in the field, participation in chapter outings, or via a school report or class project in such a manner that is considered outstanding and far and above a typical field or school project. The project may also be an outstanding personal endeavor undertaken on the nominee's own initiative. An entire class or group of school aged children may be nominated as one aggregated nominee. Qualifying standards would include participation in chapter meetings, outing, or work projects over an extended period. Chapter membership is not a requirement.

7. Certificates of Appreciation

Certificates of Appreciation are appropriate recognition for individuals and organizations that have made a particular effort in achieving a short-term NW OCTA goal as a way of issuing a formal thank you. Examples include, but are not limited to, specific efforts such as granting access for trail mapping or marking, allowing public access, or providing sponsorship. Approval for such recognition is approved by the Chapter Board.

8. Special Presidential Award

The chapter president is authorized to recognize one or more chapter members for their contributions to the chapter and to the goals of OCTA that may not meet stringent criteria of other established award categories.

9. Presidents Award

The President's Award is awarded to the outgoing chapter president in appreciation for service to the Northwest Chapter of OCTA in this important leadership role.

10. Other Awards and Citations

The Awards Committee, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may:

- a. Establish other annual awards and citations recognizing contributions of individuals and organizations that have aided or furthered the purposes of the NW Chapter of OCTA or its projects and programs.
- b. Select the recipients and present them with appropriate plaques, certificates, or other forms of recognition.