

Awards

The purpose of the Awards Committee is to identify and nominate, each year, those persons who have made exceptional contributions toward the furtherance of OCTA's mission and objectives. Awards recognizing those contributions are presented at the annual convention. As a general rule, when giving out awards, preference is given to persons residing in the general area where the national convention is being held. The objective of this rule is to maximize publicity and interest at the local level and to increase participation in the awards program. It does not, however, preclude the Committee from recognizing exceptional contributions of those from other parts of the country. In performing its function, the committee accomplishes the following tasks:

1. Ensures that a request for awards nominations to be submitted by June 1 is published each year in the first issue of News From The Plains.
2. Specifically notifies board members, officers, chapter presidents and committee chairs of the request for nominations with due date noted.
3. Collects and evaluates submitted nominations and selects persons to be awarded, taking into consideration their contribution and the area in which they live. A justified award may be deferred to another year if it corresponds better with a later convention.
4. Coordinates with the Public Relations Committee to heighten the honor and recognition of award recipients and to publicize OCTA's role in trail preservation.

Types of Awards

Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award: The highest award OCTA can give to recognize long-term and significant contributions to OCTA. Only members can qualify for Meritorious Achievement. As a general guideline, not more than two Meritorious Achievement Awards should be presented each year. (8-09)

Dave Welch Preservation Award: For special efforts toward Preservation. Not necessarily given every year. Board would take the lead to initiate this recognition.

Distinguished Volunteer Award: Bestowed on OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA goals and projects. Only OCTA members can qualify for Distinguished Volunteer.

Distinguished Service Award: Granted to organizations, businesses, government agencies, individuals, or others who contribute or participate in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education. As a general guideline, the number of these awards should be limited to two or three recipients annually.

Friend of the Trail Award: Presented to groups, individuals, or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass. Neither property ownership nor current residence on trail property is required, but emphasis is placed on

preservation of trail remnants, education of the public about their historic resources, and allowing responsible public access to the historic resources.

Media Award: Presented to a public media agency or individual for their significant role in informing the public about OCTA and/or its goals and/or educating the public about the historic overland trails.

National Certificates of Appreciation: Presented to individuals and organizations that have made a particular effort in achieving a short-term OCTA goal. These certificates are for efforts of national scope; more regional or local efforts should be recognized by appropriate chapters. There is no limit to the number of Certificates of Appreciation which may be given each year.

Young OCTAN Award: Presented to children and youth between the ages of six and twenty-one who have demonstrated particular interest in OCTA and the history and/or preservation of historic emigrant trails. The nominee will have demonstrated this interest by an activity in the field or via a school or class project in such a manner that is considered outstanding and far above the 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 OCTA meetings, outings, and/or work projects over an extended period. OCTA membership is not a requirement.

In addition, the Awards committee may present as it deems appropriate, other awards. These may include the Past Presidential Award, Certificates of Appreciation for outgoing officers and directors and Resolutions of Thanks for convention program chairs and local arrangement chairs.

The Awards Committee is responsible for the making of the award item or certificate and is responsible for the presentation at the annual meeting.

Awards Presented by Local Chapters

OCTA's Board of Directors has authorized local chapters to present Certificates of Appreciation to deserving individuals or institutions who have shown outstanding contributions in preservation, research or education on the local level. Although these certificates are primarily intended for those outside of OCTA, it is also open to OCTA volunteers. While this certificate award can be presented to multiple recipients, efforts should be made to limit the number of such yearly awards to two or three recipients. The guidelines and procedures for awarding and presenting such certificates at the chapter level will be the prerogative of the chapters.