

2024 Volunteer Awards Information and FAQ

About Marion County's 2024 Volunteer Awards:

County departments and individuals are encouraged to nominate a volunteer or volunteer group for their service during calendar year 2024. This is an opportunity for deserving volunteers to receive recognition for their contributions to a Marion County department, division, or program. The Marion County Board of Commissioners will present awards at a special event to be scheduled in 2025.



Your participation is needed to make Marion County's volunteer recognition a success.

Thank you for submitting a nomination for our 2024 Volunteer Awards.

Visit <https://www.co.marion.or.us/HR/VOL/Pages/recognition.aspx> to find additional information and the link for the Volunteer Awards Nomination Portal.

Nominations are accepted through Friday, March 28, 2025.

Nominations will be accepted for the following five categories:

- 1. Outstanding Youth Volunteer (14-17 yrs)** The Youth Volunteer Award was developed to recognize volunteer accomplishments of young people 17 years and under who volunteer for a county program, division or department and highlights the individual volunteer contributions of a young person. **One individual receives this award each year.**
- 2. Outstanding Department Volunteer (18+ yrs)** An award for those who display dedication and exemplary accomplishments within the program, division or department in which they volunteer. Volunteers in this category will be recognized for their contributions to the county, to the customers or clientele served, and the betterment of the community in which the program or service is implemented. **One award will be given for each department with a nomination submitted.**
- 3. Outstanding Advisory Board Volunteer** Volunteers who serve on a county advisory board are eligible for the Outstanding Advisory Board Volunteer Award. Through this award an individual volunteer is recognized for service or leadership, for an ongoing commitment to an advisory board, or for work on a one-time special task force or ad hoc committee. **One individual receives this award each year.**
- 4. Commissioner Mary Pearmine Outstanding Volunteer Group Award** This award recognizes a group which involves volunteers and assists the county either through direct service or partnership. To be eligible for this award the nominated group should consist of volunteers, although the entire membership does not have to be volunteers. **One group receives this award each year.**
- 5. Judge Rex Hartley Volunteer of the Year Award** One volunteer will be selected for this premier award based on their outstanding service to the county and the community. Nominees in this category have demonstrated outstanding leadership, commitment, and selflessness and have had a lasting impact through their volunteer service. Judge Hartley's energy and commitment to community and county is memorialized in this award. **One individual receives this award each year.**

2024 Volunteer Awards Information and FAQ

Who can nominate?

Anyone can submit a nomination. Although it rarely happens, individuals may nominate themselves.

Who is eligible for an award?

Each award category has its own eligibility. Volunteers recognized for the volunteer during the calendar year 2024. Groups recognized with the Pearmine award may have assisted the county through direct service or partnership.

Outstanding Youth Volunteer:

- Age 17 or younger.
- Must be a volunteer with a county program, division, or department.
- Episodic and affiliated volunteers are eligible.

Outstanding Department Volunteer:

- 18 years or older.
- Must be a volunteer with a county program, division, or department.
- Episodic and affiliated volunteers are eligible.

Outstanding Advisory Board Member:

- Any age.
- Must be a volunteer on a Marion County advisory board (board, committee, commission, or council) or a short-term task force or committee.

Commissioner Mary Pearmine Outstanding Group Award:

- Any age.
- Group has a volunteer component, but not all members must be volunteers.
- Volunteer groups that have assisted the county in either direct volunteer service, or through partnership, are eligible.

Judge Rex Hartley Volunteer of the Year:

- Any age.
- Episodic and affiliated volunteers are eligible.
- Nominations that score 8 or above (out of 16 possible points) will be eligible to receive this award.



What information should be included in a nomination?

A successful nomination includes details like the nominee's background, volunteer role, specific achievements relevant to the role and award criteria, and any supporting information including anecdotal stories, specific outcomes, results, etc.

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the 2024 Award Criteria so that you will be able to demonstrate how the nominee has met the criteria through their actions, attitude and behavior. Where possible, include information about the numbers served, a description of the services offered, or the project that was completed. Describe any impact or changes to quality of life, availability of service, improved safety procedures, or community enhancement in which the volunteer or volunteer group was involved. See tips below.

2024 Volunteer Awards Information and FAQ

How many nominations can I submit?

You may submit up to 5 nominations in any one award category.

Can I nominate an individual for more than one award?

Yes, but a separate nomination must be received for each award category.

Is there nomination deadline?

Nominations must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, March 28, 2025.

What happens after submitting a nomination?

As a nominator, you will receive a confirmation that your nomination was received. Once the committee has completed their work Volunteer Services will invite nominees, nominators, and department staff to a special event with the Board of Commissioners. The date will be selected by the Commissioners but will likely coincide with the County Fair in July.

How are recipients chosen?

Volunteer Services convenes the Awards Selection Committee in late spring to review nominations and select recipients. Members of the Selection Committee will utilize the award category criteria to evaluate each nomination. As reminder, the criteria provide standards against which the Selection Committee will use to evaluate each nominee. When you write your nomination, be sure to provide specific examples that demonstrate how the nominee has met the award criteria.

How will I know if my nominee is selected?

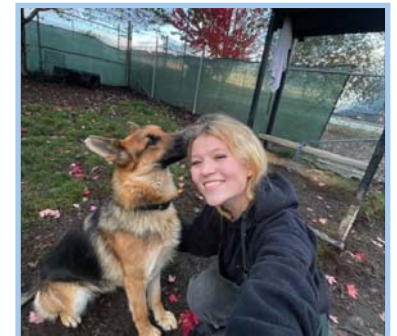
As a nominator you will be invited to the awards presentation, but you will not know who has been selected to receive each award until the awards are presented.

How do I write a compelling nomination?

Tell your nominee's story in a compelling way to help the selection committee understand why they stand out and deserve recognition. Remember, the selection committee is hearing about your nominee, and their volunteer activities, for the first time.

Make sure you understand the award criteria and are providing specific examples to showcase the nominee's achievements, using clear and concise language, avoiding jargon, and highlighting the impact of their contributions. In addition to understanding the criteria, remember these tips:

- Provide specific examples of the nominee's work and the importance to clients, the county, and/or community. Use specific examples to describe the nominee's activities and contributions.
- Avoid generic statements; provide concrete examples, data, and anecdotes.
- Stay away from vague references like "they are so wonderful" or "we could not get along without them." It is important to inform the selection committee why your volunteer is so wonderful and why you cannot get along without them. Focus on the unique qualities that your nominee brings to the table.



2024 Volunteer Awards Information and FAQ

- Focus on impact: Highlight the positive outcomes and significant results achieved by the nominee's actions. Describe specific benefits from the nominee's efforts.
- Showcase uniqueness: Highlight what sets the nominee apart from others in the same category.
- Spell out acronyms, avoid jargon and technical terms.
- Proofread carefully: Ensure your nomination is free from grammatical errors and typos.

A compelling nomination should describe as vividly and precisely as possible the difference your nominee's contribution has made and show why it has been important. One of the biggest challenges is illustrating how and why the nominee stands out from the other amazing volunteers who support us. You may include other details such as:

- ✓ What made this an outstanding achievement – indicate any extraordinary circumstances or challenges the nominee faced (include statistics or historical background if applicable).
- ✓ What knowledge your nominee had of the situation and what actions they choose to take.
- ✓ The scale of the achievement and whether it is completed or ongoing.
- ✓ The achievement's sustainability and impact on the community and how it has enriched the lives of others.
- ✓ What makes your nominee different from others doing the same thing?

Remember that longer doesn't necessarily mean better. When presenting your nominee, keep your explanations clear and to the point while ensuring there is enough information for the Selection Committee to make their decision.

Nominations are accepted throughout the year, but must be received by Volunteer Services no later than Friday, March 28, 2025

Your department's participation is needed to make Marion County's volunteer recognition event a success. Nominate a deserving volunteer TODAY!

