



2024 AUSA VOLUNTEER FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Award

The AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award recognizes an exceptional Army family whose dedicated volunteer service significantly contributes to improving Army well-being and the well-being of the local community.

Eligibility

- Regular Army
- Army National Guard
- U.S. Army Reserve
- Army Retiree
- Army Civilian
- Surviving Army Family Member

Previous national award recipients, current AUSA chapter officers and their families are not eligible.

Submission Process

- Local AUSA chapters begin to solicit nominations from chapter members or from partners in the military community beginning March 2024.
 - All nominations, whether originating with the chapter or an outside organization, must go through the local chapter to be considered a legitimate nomination.
- Chapter leaders send all nominations received to their Region President.
 - Deadline for Chapter POC to send nominations to their Region President is **1 June 2024**.
- Region Presidents review nominations and approve one nomination for consideration at the national headquarters no later than **1 July 2024**.
 - The deadline for Region Presidents to send to AUSA National is July 1, 2024.
 - All nominations submitted to AUSA National must be approved by the Region President
 - ***Only nomination packets approved by a Region President will be accepted.***
- ***All nominations must be submitted at <https://www.ausa.org/national-award-nomination-form>.***
- AUSA Family Readiness Directorate will rank the order by region and inform the region of number one pick. Only #1 Region nomination packets will move on and be considered for the 2024 AUSA Family of the Year Award.

Who may submit a nomination packet to the chapters?

All nominations must be submitted to a Region President through a local AUSA chapter. However, chapters may solicit nominations through:

- Unit chaplains;
- BN and BDE SFRG's;
- ACS Volunteer Coordinators;
- Joint Family Support Assistance Program State Offices;
- Garrison Commands; or
- Any other sources you have.

Please remember, you are responsible for verifying the legitimacy of the nomination before forwarding to your region president.

Deadlines

1 June - Chapter must submit nomination form for Region President review.

1 July - Region President must review and approve one nomination for approval by National Awards Committee.

Nomination Packet

- Please use the **AUSA 2024 AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award Application Form** included in this packet.
- Nominations that do not follow the appropriate format will be returned for revisions as needed. Your cooperation on this matter is especially important.
- Do not include pictures, award certificates or letters of recommendations in your submission packet.

Selection Criteria

Please use the following criteria when seeking families to nominate:

- At least two members of the nominated family must be currently volunteering for community, installation, or unit programs (not necessarily at the same location) **beyond what would be expected because one's position in a unit or place of employment**. Please do not include volunteer dates before April 2021.
- The AUSA Family Readiness Directorate believes that the entire family supports the efforts of dedicated volunteers in the family unit. It is not necessary for each family member to provide specific volunteer service but at a minimum two family members must have a proven record of volunteering activities for the family to be nominated.
- Nominated family members must have demonstrated **outstanding leadership** in planning, organizing or directing a **major event or program** that has resulted in a tangible benefit to the community or to Army families.
- At least one nominated family member must have a demonstrable pattern of volunteering, leadership, and achievement which has been recognized by other awards which begin at Brigade or installation level.

Judging for AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award

All nominations sent by Region Presidents will be reviewed by a panel of judges selected by the Family Readiness staff. The top three nomination packets will be sent to the AUSA National Awards Committee for final selection. The winning family will be notified by General Brown or his designee.

Family Involvement

The AUSA Family of the Year Award recognizes an Army family that views volunteerism as a family value. Although not every family member is required to volunteer the more the family as a whole contributes, the better.

Items to consider:

- How many family members volunteer?
- Look at individual family members' position(s) of leadership and the responsibilities held in that leadership role.

Impact on Community

Rate the nomination based on the total impact on the community.

Items to consider:

- Has this family forged new frontiers in the activities they are involved in?
- Does this family demonstrate a passion for the activity or organization?
- Has this family inspired others in such a way that there is increased awareness or involvement by local community members?

Awards and Recognitions

Honors and awards represent significant achievements over the past three years (April 2021 - April 2024). Use the following as a guide for assigning points to the Awards and recognition Section. This list is not inclusive. Use it as a guide and use your best judgement. Consistency is key.

Samples of Awards and point value:

- **Significant:** HQDA or MACOM level Awards, "of the year" awards
- **Excellent:** Commanding General Awards, "outstanding volunteer", AUSA Chapter Award
- **Good:** Certificates of appreciation, coins

Essay

The essays should be clearly written and well organized and should give you a glimpse of the nominated families' passion and drive. An essay that tugs at your heart strings or gives you a sense of "wow" should be considered an excellent essay.

Submit nomination here:

<https://www.ausa.org/national-award-nomination-form>

FAQ

- *How will I know if you received my nomination?*
All nomination packets must be submitted to the National HQ by **1 July 2024**. Your Region President will receive a confirmation email from Thea Green within two working days from receipt of the nomination.
- *Where can I find families to nominate?*
Please feel free to spread the word that your chapter is accepting nominations for the 2024 AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year. Email the attached packet to your contacts on installations, National Guard and Reserve units, the state Joint Family Assistance Center, the Army Volunteer Corps (AVC) coordinators office, and unit chaplains. Simultaneously, the AUSA Family Readiness office will promote the award to its contacts and various DoD Family Programs offices. **All nominations must be submitted through local AUSA Chapters and sent on to Region Presidents to be considered.**
- *Who may I contact at HQ if I need help or information?*
All of us in the Family Readiness Directorate are here to help, but your primary POC for the AUSA 2024 Family of the Year Award will be **Thea Green**. She can be reached at tgreen@ausa.org or you can call her at 703-907-2674.

Previous Recipients

- 2023 LTC Robert Shipley Family, West Point, New York
- 2022 SFC Timothy Tomasura Family, JBLM, Washington
- 2021 1SG Justin Dixon Family, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- 2020 SSG Casey Raines Family, Fort Drum, New York
- 2019 SGM Dianne Ellwein Family, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2018 SSG Vincent Pastore, Mount Laurel, New Jersey
- 2017 SFC Eryn Seidl Family, Kaiserslautern, Germany
- 2016 MAJ Craig Young Family, Wiesbaden Military Community, Germany
- 2015 SGT Blagoy Pogoncheff Family, Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington
- 2014 SFC Charles Hindbaugh Family, El Paso, Texas
- 2013 1SG Tommy Flores Family, El Paso, Texas
- 2012 CPT William Mendelsohn Family, Claremont, California
- 2011 SGT Jeremy Barnhart Family, San Antonio, Texas
- 2010 MSG Evalani Faniel Family, Fort Lee, Virginia
- 2009 MAJ Kevin Bolke Family, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico
- 2008 LTC Ronald Rallis Family, Fullerton, California
- 2007 LTC John R. Chavez Family, Fort Bliss, Texas
- 2006 CSM Darrel Calton Family, Frederick, Maryland
- 2005 SGT Jon Kerr Family, Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pennsylvania
- 2004 CSM Brian Wiles Family, Fort Lewis, Washington
- 2003 SSG Michael McClaran Family, Wahiawa, Hawaii
- 2002 SFC Lynn J. Dedeaux Family, Fort Knox, Kentucky