



# 2024 GVSA Resource Guide





## What are the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards?

Since 2008, Volunteer Tennessee has hosted the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA), which is an annual recognition that honors the volunteer efforts of Tennesseans in every county.

### The Purpose:

- Recognize Tennessee's exceptional volunteers who are making a lasting impact in their communities through volunteer and community service
- Showcase the combined impact of volunteers throughout Tennessee
- Inspire people of all ages to get involved and make a difference in their communities

### The Honorees:

The goal is to have 2 honorees from all 95 Tennessee counties.

- A Youth (Age 25 and under)
- An Adult

### The County Coordinator:

- Volunteers to lead the process in each county
- Assembles a county team
- Solicits and evaluates nominations
- Selects an adult and a youth honoree by **November 15, 2024**
- Submits honoree information
- Recognizes recipients locally
- Celebrates recipients at state-wide recognition on **Feb. 16, 2025**



# Recognition Criteria

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The four key criteria to be used for selecting GVSA nominees.

1. **Need:** The nominee's service addresses a specific, compelling need in the community.
2. **Action:** The nominee was actively involved and took initiative.
3. **Innovation:** The nominee used unique or creative methods to solve community problems.
4. **Impact:** The activity or service produced positive changes and provided an example to others.

Note: A separate recognition is available for Businesses and Nonprofit Organizations. More information on those awards is available at [www.tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee/](http://www.tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee/).

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Any individual whose volunteer activities in Tennessee benefit the community or the State of Tennessee in a substantial, important, or unique way. If a nominee is age 25 or under, please select Youth as the category on the nomination form.
- Individuals MUST reside in the county for which they are being honored.
- Students receiving course credits are eligible only if the volunteer service extends beyond course requirements. This must be clearly indicated in the nomination letter.
- National Service program participants (AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, RSVP, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, etc.) are encouraged to apply based on their volunteer involvement in their national service assignment.

## Who is NOT Eligible:

- Individuals who do NOT reside in the county for which they are being honored.
- Individuals involved in court-mandated community service or those serving as "loaned executives."
- Persons who receive compensation for service rendered (except National Service participants noted above).
- Individuals who have previously received a Governor's Volunteer Stars Award.
- Groups or families. Each individual will need to be submitted as separate nominations.



# Recognition Criteria

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This list of things can help your volunteer recognition process run smoothly!

- 1) Choose Your Team
  - a) Identify County Coordinator and GVSA Selection Committee Members
  - b) Formulate a plan, leverage existing recognition programs
  
- 2) Determine What and How to Celebrate
  - a) Confirm your guidelines and judging criteria
  - b) Develop your nomination form. Volunteer Tennessee provides sample Word, fillable PDF and online form options for your use.
  - c) Decide how to recognize your “Stars” in your county
  
- 3) Rock the Nomination Process
  - a) Publicize the award and the call for nominations
  - b) Engage the local media as promotion partners
  - c) Utilize social media. Tag Volunteer Tennessee and utilize the GVSA hashtags: #VolunteerTennessee, #TennesseeServes, #GVSA, and #GVSA2024
  - d) Contact civic clubs, local nonprofits, chambers of commerce, schools and other community organizations to increase awareness and encourage nominations
  
- 4) Select your honorees
  - a) Recruit your judges and review judging criteria
  - b) Evaluate volunteer nominations
  - c) Select your winners
  - d) Notify your honorees
  
- 5) Submit your honorees to Volunteer Tennessee by **November 15, 2024**  
  
Adult submission: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024GVSA\\_Adult](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024GVSA_Adult)  
Youth submission: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024GVSA\\_Youth](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024GVSA_Youth)
  
- 6) Make a big deal about your honorees locally
  - a) Host a local recognition event and present any awards or prizes (if possible)
  - b) Notify the media who your honorees are
  - c) Ask your mayor(s) to issue proclamations recognizing your honorees
  - d) Publicize on social media
  
- 7) Celebrate your Stars at the GVSA celebration on **February 16, 2025** in Franklin at the Cool Springs Marriott
  
- 8) Promote volunteerism in your community





# Encouraging Volunteerism & Community Service

## Who We Are

Celebrating 30 years of service, Volunteer Tennessee is the Governor's commission that addresses educational, public safety, environmental, and other human needs in the Volunteer State by:

- Overseeing AmeriCorps programs,
- Managing the Tennessee Serves Network,
- Promoting service-learning opportunities,
- Celebrating volunteerism, and
- Fostering community service initiatives and partnerships.



## National Service in Tennessee



We have awarded over \$95 million in federal funds to AmeriCorps programs, volunteer centers, schools, and community-based organizations. These partners leveraged over \$90 million in local matching funds.



Since 1994, more than 17,000 AmeriCorps members served 33 million hours and earned more than \$69 million in education awards just in Tennessee.



Our AmeriCorps programs serve over 40,000 Tennesseans throughout the state each year.

### Disaster Recovery Services

- Serves as lead state agency for volunteers and donations under the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan
- Supports Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) teams across the state

### Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards

- Strives to recognize outstanding adult and youth volunteers from all 95 Tennessee counties and a nonprofit and business from each grand division every year
- Celebrated 1,300+ honorees since 2008

### Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism & Service-Learning

- Convenes civic leaders annually to learn and collaborate about innovative ways to encourage volunteerism
- Hosts Awards of Excellence ceremony for schools prioritizing service-learning

### Tennessee Serves Network

- Utilizes a statewide portal to connect people with volunteer opportunities in their communities
- Launched in 2021, more than 262,980 volunteer hours have been reported, which equals an \$8.4 million investment

## Contact Us



615.253.1426



[tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee](http://tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee)

An Initiative of Volunteer Tennessee  
[www.tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee](http://www.tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee)





# Directory of Participating Counties for the 2024 Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards

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Below is a list of all currently participating counties and the county contact info. County coordinators facilitate the local volunteer recognition process to select one outstanding adult and one youth volunteer from the county for statewide recognition. If you are interested in nominating a volunteer, please contact the county coordinator for details.

**\*\*\*\*Please note that submission processes and deadlines vary from county to county. All counties will finalize volunteer selections by November 15, 2024.\*\*\*\***

## **Anderson County**

Kate Barnett  
Volunteer East Tennessee- United Way  
of Greater Knoxville  
barnettk@unitedwayknox.org  
865-582-4085

## **Bedford County**

Dantriell McWilliams  
United Way  
dantriell.mcwilliams@yourlocaluw.org  
615-552-6842

## **Benton County**

Nicole Moore  
Tennessee National Guard  
nicole.a.moore52.civ@army.mil

## **Bledsoe County**

Fran Barker  
williamandfranbarker@gmail.com  
423-305-4062

## **Blount County**

Jennifer Wackerhagen  
United Way of Blount County  
jwackerhagen@unitedwayblount.org  
865-982-2251 ext. 17

## **Bradley County**

Fran Barker  
williamandfranbarker@gmail.com  
423-305-4062

## **Campbell County**

Brandon Johnson  
Lions Club / Rotary Club  
brandonjohnson1994@gmail.com  
423-494-4894

## **Cannon County**

Dantriell McWilliams  
United Way  
dantriell.mcwilliams@yourlocaluw.org  
615-552-6842

## **Carroll County**

Brad Hurley  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce  
cchamber@earthlink.net  
731-986-4664

## **Carter County**

Joy McCray  
Elizabethton/Carter County Chamber of  
Commerce  
Director@elizabethtonchamber.com  
423.547.3850



**Cheatham County**

Sharon McDaniel  
Mid-Cumberland HRA  
smcdaniel@mchra.com  
615-878-1509

**Chester County**

Pat Ross  
United Way of West Tennessee  
patross@unitedway.tn.org  
731-422-1816

**Claiborne County**

Mayor Joe Brooks  
Claiborne County Mayor  
countymayor@claibornecountytn.gov  
423-626-5236

**Clay County**

Beverly Murphy  
Clay County Chamber  
bmclaychamber@gmail.com  
(931)243-3338 Office/(931)260-7668  
Mobile

**Cocke County**

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TCAC  
rebecca@tcac1.org  
423-586-7636

**Coffee County**

Lamar Wilkie  
glw@glwilkie.com  
931-952-3736

**Crockett County**

Phyllis Bowers  
Phbowers@att.net  
913-563-0230

**Cumberland County**

Beth Wyatt-Davis  
Cumberland County Mayor's Office  
bdavis@cumberlandcountytn.gov  
931-484-6165

**Davidson County**

Jesus Fernandez Cabrera  
United Way of Greater Nashville  
jesus.fernandez@unitedwaygn.org  
615-738-1924

**Decatur County**

Pat Ross  
United Way of West Tennessee  
patross@unitedway.tn.org  
731-422-1816

**DeKalb County**

Jonathan Schleicher  
Tennessee National Guard  
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615-707-0580

**Dickson County**

Lacey Nelson  
UT Extension- Dickson County  
lnelso27@utk.edu  
615-446-2788

**Dyer County**

Becky Willis  
UT Extension – Dyer County  
rwillis8@utk.edu  
(731) 286-7821

**Fayette County**

Ebony Moore  
Volunteer and Leadership Memphis  
emoore@leadershipmemphis.org  
(901)278-0016

**Fentress County**

Seth Vaughn  
Fentress County Chamber of  
Commerce  
seth@jamestowntn.org  
931-879-9948



**Franklin County**

Hunter Isbell  
UT Extension  
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931-967-2741

**AND**

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UT Extension- Franklin County  
mhenley1@utk.edu  
(931) 967-2741

**Gibson County**

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rjones7040@icloud.com  
731-612-7040

**Giles County**

Jeana Mills  
South Central Human Resource Agency  
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931-580-5406

**Grainger County**

Kate Barnett  
Volunteer East Tennessee- United Way  
of Greater Knoxville  
barnettk@unitedwayknox.org  
865-582-4085

**Greene County**

Tammy Henebry  
Tennessee National Guard  
tammara.d.henebry.civ@army.mil

**Grundy County**

Gayle VanHooser  
Grundy County Register of Deeds  
gayle.vanhooser@vcourthouse.net  
931-205-7115

**Hamblen County**

Becca Grubb  
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rebecca@tcac1.org  
423-586-7636

**Hamilton County**

Fran Barker  
williamandfranbarker@gmail.com  
423-305-4062

**Hancock County**

Sheldon Livesay  
Of One Accord Ministry/Hawkins County  
Chamber of Commerce  
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(423) 921-8044; Cell: (423) 923-0864

**Hardeman County**

Mayor Todd Pulse  
Hardeman County Mayor  
todd\_pulse@yahoo.com  
(731) 658-3266

**Hardin County**

Pat Ross  
United Way of West Tennessee  
patross@unitedway.tn.org  
731-422-1816

**Hawkins County**

Sheldon Livesay  
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Chamber of Commerce  
OfOneAccord@gmail.com  
(423) 921-8044; Cell: (423) 923-0864

**Haywood County**

Michael Banks  
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**Henderson County**

Rylee Smith  
Henderson County Chamber of  
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rsmith@hctn.org  
(731) 968-2126





**Henry County**

Tara Wilson  
Paris-Henry County Industrial  
Committee  
twilson@phcindustrialcommittee.org  
731.407.7071

**Hickman County**

Debby Rainey  
United Way Greater Nashville  
Debby.Rainey@unitedwaygn.org  
615-504-6993

**Houston County**

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mindylou1118@gmail.com  
615-415-6107

**Humphreys County**

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Humphreys County School System  
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**Jackson County**

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Jackson County Chamber of Commerce  
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931-268-0971

**Jefferson County**

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865-582-4085

**Johnson County**

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Ut-TSU Extension Johnson County  
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**Knox County**

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865-582-4085

**Lake County**

Michelle Thompson  
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**Lauderdale County**

Rebekah Jones  
Lauderdale County Mayor  
mgaines@lctngov.com  
731-635-3500

**Lawrence County**

Jeana Mills  
South Central Human Resource Agency  
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931-580-5406

**Lewis County**

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Hohenwald-Lewis County Chamber of  
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**Lincoln County**

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**Loudon County**

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**Macon County**

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**Madison County**

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**Marion County**

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**Marshall County**

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**Maury County**

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**McMinn County**

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**McNairy County**

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**Meigs County**

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**Monroe County**

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**Montgomery County**

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**Moore County**

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**Pickett County**

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**Polk County**

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**Putnam County**

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Putnam County Mayor  
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**Rhea County**

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**Roane County**

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**Robertson County**

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**Rutherford County**

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**Sevier County**

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**Shelby County**

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**Smith County**

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**Stewart County**

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**Sumner County**

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**Union County**

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**Warren County**

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**Washington County**

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**Wayne County**

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**Weakley County**

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**White County**

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**Wilson County**

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