



2024 County Coordinators Training



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Today's Agenda

- Overview and History of Volunteer Tennessee
- Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA)
 - County Coordinator Role
 - Processes
 - Important Dates and Deadlines
 - Resources
- Q & A



What is Volunteer Tennessee?

The Governor's commission that encourages volunteerism and community service to address the Volunteer State's educational, public safety, environmental, and other human needs.



What we do

- Oversee [AmeriCorps](#) programs
- Manage the [Tennessee Serves Network](#)
- Promote [service-learning](#) opportunities
- Celebrate [volunteerism](#)
- Foster community service initiatives and partnerships



Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA)

- 1 adult volunteer and 1 youth volunteer (under 25) from each county in Tennessee.
- 3 business and 3 nonprofits - 1 from each region of the state.
- 2024 GVSA Celebration is **February 16, 2025.**



Business & Nonprofit Awards

- 3 business and 3 nonprofits, 1 from each region of the state.
- Deadline for nominations is **December 6, 2024**



GVSA Criteria

Honorees must reside and primarily volunteer in the county for which they are being nominated.



GVSA Criteria

- **Need:** Service addresses a specific, compelling need in the community.
- **Action:** The nominee was actively involved and took initiative.



GVSA Criteria

- **Innovation:** The nominee used creative methods to solve community problems.
- **Impact:** The activity or service produced positive changes and provided an example to others.



Timeline

Month	Task
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate Your Team• Confirm Your Plan - Guidelines and Criteria, Recognition• Call for Nominations
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select Your Honorees
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather honoree information• Friday, Nov. 15 - Submit honoree info to Volunteer Tennessee.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GVSA Invitations released• Recognize local honorees
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm GVSA invite was received• RSVP to GVSA Ceremony
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend GVSA Ceremony – February 16, 2025 (Franklin, TN)• Complete GVSA Survey
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm County's Participation in the next GVSA cycle



The County Coordinator's Role

- Select qualified honorees
- Ensure an open, fair and public process
- Communicate with Volunteer Tennessee
- No more than 5 hours/month (in following years, it should take less time).
October-November will be busier.



The County Coordinator's Role

- Increase awareness of volunteerism in your area
- Increase awareness of community needs
- Increased visibility of your organization in the community



1. Choose your Team

- What is the capacity in your county?
 - Group Size
 - Team size will depend on how you want to celebrate and how you plan to select honorees
- Who in the county can help?
 - Businesses, nonprofits, government agencies



2. Formulate Your Plan

- Check for Existing Recognition Programs
 - If your organization/community already conducts a volunteer recognition process, you do not have to hold a separate process for the GVSA.
- Decide Your Campaign Type
 - Media, Social Media, Small, Large



2. Formulate Your Plan

- Communicate. Communicate. Communicate.
- Confirm your Guidelines and Judging Criteria
- Utilize your [Resources](#)
- Set your Deadline. Remember, honorees are due to Volunteer Tennessee on **Nov. 15, 2024.**



3. Call for Nominations

- Distribute nomination form to local organizations
- Engage your local media outlets
- Social Media and Websites
- Use these hashtags for additional exposure
#VolunteerTennessee #TennesseeServes
#GVSA #GVSA2024



4. Selecting Your Honorees

- Picking a selection committee
- Reviewing nominations
 - Is a majority of their volunteering in your county?
 - Do they LIVE in your county?
 - Do they meet GVSA and local criteria?
- Notifying the winners



5. Local Recognition

- Non-event recognition
 - Proclamation from the Mayor
 - Media Announcement about Winner
 - Recognition at local government meeting
 - Ordering awards/certificates



5. Local Recognition

- Event Recognition
 - Use components from the non-event ideas and combine them into an event
 - Invite County Mayor and other elected officials
 - Develop community partnerships to sponsor event
 - Include the media

Please let us know if you plan to have a local ceremony or event & share the pictures! We'd love to attend!



6. GVSA Honoree Submission

- Submission deadline: **November 15, 2024**
- Submit one adult and one youth
 - **Honoree Contact**
 - **Honoree Bio – Full Version**
 - **Short Honoree Bio – Read at Ceremony**
 - **Photos-** one headshot & one “action”
 - ***Local GVSA Process***



Long Version

Ben Marks

Benton County Adult

As the second-generation owner of Marks Building Supply, Ben Marks has invested in his community in countless ways including Second Harvest Food Bank's Project Grow, which has generated food to provide meals for 2,000 individuals. This means that Ben's contributions provided meals to approximately 59% of those facing hunger in Benton County. In addition to Second Harvest, Ben serves his community on many levels, donating time and goods to other local charitable organizations, serving on the school board, and jumping at every opportunity to volunteer, most recently as a consultant for a new student-lead school gardening program. Every county should be so lucky as to have a community member like Ben Marks.



Short Version

Ben Marks – Benton County Adult Honoree – Ben has invested in his community in countless ways, including Second Harvest Food Bank's Project Grow, which has provided meals for two thousand [2,000] individuals. Ben's contributions provided meals to approximately fifty-nine percent [59%] of those facing hunger in Benton County.



Honoree Submission is Online

Submission links for **Individuals** will be [HERE](#)

- *Submissions should be for individuals only. (not for sibling, married couples, groups, etc.)*

Submission links for **Businesses & Nonprofits** will be [HERE](#)

Bios and photos can be uploaded directly into these form.



Photos of Honoree

- Headshots are required
- Upload PNG or JPG
- No Couple or Group Photos



7. GVSA Event

Sunday, February 16, 2025

- Can attend free:
 - Youth Honorees + 2 guests
 - Adult Honorees + 1 guest
 - County Coordinators (1)
 - County Mayors (1)
 - State Senator & Congress Members



7. GVSA Event

- Nominators and family/friends can purchase tickets to the events.
- The emcee will recognize honorees by county, in alphabetical order. Honorees come to the stage, receive their award from Miss Tennessee Volunteer and have their photo taken.



Other Opportunities

- Additional Resources: [Resources for GVSA County Coordinators \(tn.gov\)](#)
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Serve as a County Coordinator for an additional county: Benton, DeKalb, Greene, Jackson, Lake, Overton, Pickett, Smith, Warren



Questions?

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