

## 2021 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards

### Eligibility Guidelines and Award Categories

#### Eligibility Guidelines:

- Nominations must be received via online application to Volunteer Fairfax by March 5, 2021.
- Nominators must obtain approval from the person or group being nominated prior to submission.
- The nominee must have completed their volunteering work, including remote volunteering due to COVID 19, in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, the Town of Herndon, the Town of Vienna, or the City of Falls Church or with an affiliated organization/agency operating in one of these counties. \*Unless nominated for the RSVP Competitive Award.
- The volunteer service must primarily benefit the Fairfax County community at large. Government agencies, hospitals and nonprofits who use volunteers to serve their mission(s) are all encouraged to submit nominees.
- Nominated volunteers must have provided service during the 2020 calendar year; however, service provided prior to this year can also be included. \*Unless nominated for the RSVP Competitive Award.
- Volunteer Fairfax reserves the right to reassign a nominee to a different award category for any reason.
- Service provided may not include hours served as part of an internship fulfilling academic requirements.
- Volunteers may nominate themselves.
- All nominations are subject to verification by VF staff.
- Staff members compensated by salary or any other compensatory means are not eligible to be nominated for recognition.
- Nominees (individuals or groups) may only be nominated in one competitive award category.
- All decisions made by the independent panel of judges are final.
- Any service provided in reference to a court case will not be eligible.
- Nominators must submit a well-written and thorough narrative for consideration. The judging panel will not consider supplemental information, such as links to websites, newspaper clippings, or letters of support.

## **Award Categories:**

*\*Please note that the first five award categories marked with an asterisk are open to individual and group nominees and will therefore be judged against like nominees (individuals will compete against individuals, and groups against groups). This means that there may potentially be two winners awarded in each of these categories (an individual winner and a group winner). A group is defined as three or more people whose combined efforts contributed service to the community.*

### **1. Education and Literacy Award\***

Honors volunteers dedicated to education and literacy through activities including, but not limited to, tutoring, adult literacy, library-based initiatives, early childhood education, and intergenerational programs.

### **2. Hunger Hero(es)\***

Honors volunteers who advocate for and support the issue of food insecurity in the community through activities including but not limited to, making food to feed those in need, organizing food drives and recruiting and motivating community members to take part in food drives and raising funds to support the mission of agencies/nonprofits who work within this mission area.

### **3. Environmental Sustainability Award\***

Honors volunteers who work to protect and beautify our environment and natural surroundings, advocate for the preservation of our planet and strive to instill these values for our community.

### **4. Quality of Life Award\***

Honors volunteers who work to improve the quality of life of others including, but not limited to, enhancing outcomes and providing care and support for the disabled, elderly, and veteran populations, as well as those with substance abuse problems or mental disabilities, homeless populations and those living in poverty. This category also includes volunteers working to support animal welfare issues.

### **5. Social Advocacy Award\***

Honors volunteers who advocate for and support the righting of injustice in our community in areas such as, but not limited to, human rights, minority rights, domestic violence, housing, and job preparedness.

### **6. Youth Leadership Award**

Honors a volunteer (age 21 years or under) for her/his/their outstanding volunteer service for a cause or nonprofit.

**7. Corporate Volunteer Group**

Honors a private, non-charitable business or employee volunteer group that has demonstrated exceptional service to Fairfax County and/or the Washington, D.C., Metro region community in 2020.

**8. RSVP Northern Virginia**

Honors the efforts of the RSVP Northern Virginia program, which unleashes the potential of volunteers ages 55 and older to make a valuable, lasting impact in our community. Nominees should be an individual who volunteers through the RSVP program. As the RSVP program is a partnership between Volunteer Fairfax, Volunteer Alexandria, and Volunteer Arlington, nominees living and volunteering outside Fairfax County will be accepted for this award.

**9. Lifetime Achievement**

Honors an individual who, over the course of at least 15 years, has made significant contributions to Fairfax County through their volunteer efforts.

**10. #Strongertogether Honorable Mention**

Recognizes volunteers who have risen to the unique challenges presented by the COVID 19 pandemic and who demonstrated a unique and exemplary response to the crisis through advocacy or volunteer service. This is a noncompetitive category and is meant to honor all of the helpers during this crisis.