



SC PTA Awards Guide

Eligibility

To be eligible for the SCPTA Awards, all nominees must meet the following criteria:

- **Active Participation:** Nominees must be actively engaged in the PTA/PTSA unit at their respective school. This includes involvement in programs, initiatives, or activities that support the PTA's mission and goals.
- **Current Membership:** Nominees must be current members of the PTA/PTSA at the school they represent. This applies to both individuals and local units being nominated for specific awards.
- **Compliance:** All local units must be in full compliance with SCPTA guidelines and policies. This includes adherence to financial reporting, bylaws, and operational standards as set forth by the state and national PTA organizations. Units must demonstrate that they uphold the values and mission of the PTA, ensuring transparency and accountability in their operations.
- **Specific Award Criteria:** Nominees must meet any additional criteria specific to the award for which they are being nominated, as outlined in the award descriptions. This may include demonstrating leadership, volunteerism, community engagement, or other relevant contributions.

By ensuring that all nominees meet these eligibility criteria, the SCPTA aims to recognize those who truly exemplify the spirit of collaboration, commitment, and excellence within the school community.

Instructions

Please read all instructions and fill out each form completely.

- Each nomination must include a supporting document explaining the reason for the nomination of the individual, unit, or school.
- One elementary school-level winner, one middle school-level winner, and one high school-level winner will be selected from all applications.

All forms are due by **March 21, 2026**. No late submissions will be accepted.

Local Unit Awards

PTSA Student Leadership Award

Purpose:

This award recognizes local PTSA units that actively involve students in leadership roles, empowering them to take part in decision-making processes and contribute to school initiatives.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Opportunities provided for students to lead committees and plan events.
- Engagement of students in advocacy efforts and school activities.
- Demonstration of how student involvement positively impacts the school community.

Submission Example:

The SCPTSA established a Student Leadership Council where 15 students take on leadership roles in planning events such as the annual school carnival and community service projects. Students have led discussions on school policies, presenting their ideas to the school board, which resulted in changes to lunchtime activities based on student feedback

PTA Volunteer Excellence Award

Purpose:

This award honors local PTA units that celebrate the outstanding contributions of volunteers within the school community, promoting volunteerism and fostering a culture of appreciation.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Creation of meaningful volunteer opportunities.
- Recognition of volunteer contributions and efforts.
- Demonstration of collaboration and community engagement to enhance student experiences.

Submission Example:

The SCPTA organized a Volunteer Appreciation Day, recognizing over 50 volunteers for their contributions throughout the year. They created a "Volunteer of the Month" program to highlight individual efforts, along with a volunteer training workshop that empowered parents to take on leadership roles in school events, such as the book fair and field trips

Community Collaboration Award

Purpose:

This award recognizes PTA units that build strong partnerships with community organizations, businesses, or local agencies to support student success and family engagement.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Establishment of innovative joint programs or resource-sharing initiatives.
- Engagement in collaborative events that benefit students and families.
- Evidence of lasting connections that enhance the school and community.

Submission Example:

The SCPTA partnered with local businesses and community organizations to launch a "Community Connect" program, which included joint events like a health fair and educational workshops. These partnerships led to the creation of a scholarship fund for students, demonstrating a shared commitment to enhancing educational opportunities and community engagement.

Student-Centric Budget Allocation Award

Purpose:

This award acknowledges local PTA units that prioritize budget allocations to directly benefit students, enhancing educational outcomes and experiences.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Strategic investments in programs and resources focused on student needs.
- Evidence of prioritizing student-centric financial decisions over staff expenditures.
- Demonstrated commitment to improving student learning and growth through budget choices.

Submission Example:

The SCPTA implemented a new budget strategy, allocating 70% of their funds directly to student programs, including after-school tutoring, arts enrichment, and STEM activities. They also conducted a survey to identify student needs, ensuring that financial decisions are made with students' best interests in mind, resulting in increased participation in these programs.

Member Awards

Student Voice & Advocacy Award

Purpose:

This award recognizes a student who has effectively used their voice to promote positive change within the school and PTSA, ensuring that student perspectives are valued.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Active participation in initiatives that advocate for student interests.
- Demonstrated leadership in promoting student perspectives in decision-making.
- Impact of advocacy efforts on school culture and community engagement.

Submission Example:

Mrs. XYZ, a 10th-grade student, initiated a campaign advocating for mental health resources at her school. She gathered a petition signed by over 200 students and presented it to the school administration. Her efforts led to the establishment of a mental health awareness week and the inclusion of student representatives in mental health discussions.

PTA Board Member Commitment Award

Purpose:

This award honors a PTA board member who demonstrates exceptional dedication and commitment to their role, contributing significantly to the association's mission.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Consistent involvement and support for PTA initiatives.
- Ability to foster collaboration and transparency within the board.
- Evidence of inspiring others through leadership and commitment to the PTA mission.

Submission Example:

Mr. XYZ, a board member of the SCPTA, consistently attends meetings and contributes to strategic planning. He spearheaded the "Family Engagement Night," which increased parent participation by 40%. His leadership style encourages open communication and collaboration among board members, resulting in a more cohesive team.

School Program Awards

PTA Belonging Award

Purpose:

This award recognizes a PTA that educates its members on the significance of belonging across diverse communities, promoting a culture of inclusion.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Programs that acknowledge and celebrate differences among community members.
- Engagement initiatives that enhance relationships between parents, teachers, and students.
- Evidence of fostering a sense of belonging throughout the school environment.

Submission Example:

The SCPTA launched the "Cultural Connections" program, which includes events celebrating the diverse cultures represented in the school community. They organized cultural fairs, workshops, and family nights, fostering relationships among families and promoting an inclusive environment. Feedback from families indicated a 90% satisfaction rate regarding feelings of belonging.

Mental Health Program Award

Purpose:

This award acknowledges PTA units that promote mental health awareness and support within the school community.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Implementation of programs that foster emotional well-being among students and staff.
- Creation of a safe environment that encourages open dialogue about mental health issues.
- Provision of resources and education aimed at empowering students concerning mental health.

Submission Example:

The SCPTA implemented a comprehensive mental health initiative that includes monthly workshops for parents and students, a peer support program, and training for teachers on recognizing mental health issues. They also partnered with local mental health professionals to provide resources and support, significantly increasing awareness and reducing stigma around mental health topics in the school community.

School Staff Awards

Pillar of SCPTA School Site Employee Award

Purpose:

This award recognizes an employee who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and support to the PTA's vision, mission, and values at their school site.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Evidence of support for PTA initiatives and goals.
- Active involvement in fostering a positive school environment.
- Contributions that enhance the educational experience for students.

Submission Example:

Mrs. XYZ, the school counselor, has been instrumental in promoting the PTA's mission. She organized monthly meetings with parents to discuss student progress and provided resources to help families engage more effectively with the school. Her dedication to supporting both students and the PTA has significantly strengthened the school community.

Exemplary Teacher Advocate Award

Purpose:

This award recognizes a teacher who collaborates effectively with the PTA to improve school programs, student learning, and family engagement.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Active participation in PTA initiatives that enhance educational programs.
- Commitment to improving student learning and family engagement.
- Evidence of collaboration with the PTA to address school community needs.

Submission Example:

Mr. XYZ, a science teacher, actively collaborates with the PTA to enhance educational programs. He led a successful fundraising campaign for new science lab equipment and invited PTA

members to participate in classroom activities, fostering stronger ties between families and the school. His commitment to improving student learning outcomes is evident in the increased student engagement in science.