

Awards for Recognition

There are many types of awards that can be given for recognition of volunteer service and they can include recognition for distinguished service, inspiration, dedication, special services, lifetime contributions, “legends”, or simply “appreciation”.

The USMS Recognition & Awards Committee has developed sample templates for use with the following four awards. Hopefully these materials will help you jump start a recognition of volunteers program or enhance the one you already have.

Coach of the Year: The purpose of this annual award is to honor one coach who has demonstrated outstanding coaching qualities, club development, and overall “LMSC” participation.

Appreciation: The purpose of this annual award is to express special thanks to numerous individuals who have made significant contributions to the LMSC.

Contributor of the Year: The purpose of this annual award is to recognize outstanding contributions during the preceding year.

Distinguished Service: The purpose of this award is to recognize one person for outstanding long-term service to the LMSC. It may or may not be given annually.

OTHER INFORMATION

Naming awards: Often times an award is given a name in honor of a long-time member (alive or deceased) who represents the qualities that the award recognizes.

Prizes/gifts: Your local trophy shop has great selections for plaques, trophies, and engraved items that can be displayed, such as dishes, mugs, clocks, etc. Embroidered shirts, towels, or equipment bags are useful items as well as gift certificates to local swim shops. Some LMSCs offer lifetime or yearly USMS registration. A significant gift certificate to a special restaurant or B&B might be appropriate for your “highest” award. The Coach of the Year might be given a plaque AND financial help to attend the ASCA conference or a nearby coaching clinic. Always remember to recognize service or contributions in newsletters, websites, and in local publications.

Online sources: The R&A committee has posted two related surveys that include suggestions for recognizing volunteers. Go to http://www.usms.org/gto/gto_awards to download these documents.

SWAG: Beyond the awards and prizes listed above, we recognize that there are many volunteers in your LMSC that you might want to thank for their efforts without giving them an actual award. They might include meet personnel, board members, and other volunteers. An effort is being made to develop some “swag” that you could purchase from USMS that can be used. Stay tuned for more details as they become available – hopefully in time for USMS convention at the end of September.