



## National Philanthropy Day®

# 2026 Award Nomination Instructions

*These awards recognize exceptional philanthropic and volunteer contributions in Colorado. The deadline for nominations is **July 17, 2026, at 5 pm.***

*The National Philanthropy Day steering committee encourages nominations from all individuals, groups, and organizations representing all regions of Colorado. The Association of Fundraising Professionals Colorado Chapter defines diversity as the seeking and achieving a broad representation of experiences, perspectives, opinions, and cultures within philanthropy. We believe that inclusiveness is an essential source of strength and vitality.*

### **Instructions for Nominations**

- Each nomination must include:
  - Nomination form ([completed online](#))
  - Nomination narrative (completed online)
  - Two letters of support (only two letters; additional letters will not be accepted; one or two letters will be accepted for Youth Awards, two-page maximum per letter)
- If you are submitting multiple nominations, you must submit a separate nomination form for each one.
- Select only one nomination category for your nomination. Review the descriptions carefully to select the category that best fits. If you cannot determine the best category, please ask DeAnn Acosta ([deann@afpcc.org](mailto:deann@afpcc.org)) for help.
- If the same individual or group is nominated in two award categories (or twice in the same category), the final category entered is subject to the discretion of the NPD Steering Committee. Nominators will be informed of the final category in which the nominee is placed. Nominators are encouraged to work together on nominations.
- Nominations must include two letters of support from other organizations/individuals (not the nominee's or nominator's organization) expanding on or validating the nominee's qualifications. Youth nominations may include only one letter of support.
- Do not send a cover letter, any other attachments, or supplemental materials. **NO hyperlinks are allowed.**
- Previous award winners are only eligible for nomination 5 award cycles after their award year. The recipient list by year is available at [afpcc.org](http://afpcc.org).
- Posthumous nominations are no longer accepted.
- If you would like feedback on your nomination from a member of the Awards & Selection Committee (not the judges) before formally submitting your nomination, please submit your draft materials by July 8 via email to [deann@afpcc.org](mailto:deann@afpcc.org) with a note to that effect.

## **Nomination Narrative**

Please answer ALL the following questions. This narrative must be limited to no more 100 words per question. Carefully review the award description to guide your answers.

1. What are the nominee's **specific** achievements?
2. What **impact** has the nominee had on the community through financial contributions and/or volunteerism?
3. What **leadership qualities** does the nominee possess that promote philanthropy and/or volunteerism?
4. How does the nominee adopt a spirit of **inclusion**? (*i.e. inviting broad participation, mentoring young professionals, hiring diverse applicants, etc.*)

## **Winning Nominations Have These Qualities/Elements:**

- Answer each question separately and completely; not following the nomination format diminishes a nominee's chances of being selected.
- Identify ahead of time who could provide enthusiastic letters of support – letters of support should contain different information from the nomination and should be customized and passionate.
- The two letters should come from **two different organizations**, neither of which is the nominee's or nominator's organization. Please only submit two letters. Additional letters will not be accepted. Maximum 2-pages per letter.
- Focus on **Colorado efforts** only.
- Add details and discuss the **specific impact** the nominee has made; describe how this person has made a difference in Colorado.
- Include data (number of people impacted, outcomes, quantitative data, etc.).
- Cite concrete examples of accomplishments.
- Generate some **excitement and enthusiasm** for your nominee in your narrative.
- Focus on ongoing activities and overall efforts.
- Research what your nominee is doing with other groups and describe it in the narrative or ask for letters of support from those groups.
- Describe how their efforts have encouraged others.
- Share some inspirational stories – **add some "heart."**
- Be descriptive – remember, the selection committee may not know your nominee; add a short history/background of the nominee.
- Nominations should be as thorough and well-written as possible; the quality of the nomination really impacts consideration by the judges.
- Allow yourself enough time to gather the information and be very specific.
- Nominations may be better received if they are not self-nominations.
- Please see the website for examples of winning nominations: [afpcc.org](http://afpcc.org).

## **Specifically for Outstanding Large Business and Outstanding Small Business**

- Best in these categories to NOT self-nominate, consider getting a non-profit that you support to nominate you
- Letters of support should be a testimonial to back up the nomination, stories and facts are best. You could consider having letters from employees about employee giving.

- It's good to include the percentage of corporate giving as part of the annual budget and the percentage of employees involved – both in volunteering and giving.

### **Additional Details**

- Nomination criteria are current for 2026. Previous winners may have been selected and won under different guidelines. Previous award winners are only eligible for nomination five award cycles after their award year. (Recipient list by year available on [afpcc.org](http://afpcc.org))
- Nominations must be complete when submitted. No late nominations or letters of support will be accepted.
- Posthumous nominations are no longer accepted.
- If you have questions about the nomination process, please get in touch with DeAnn Acosta, at [deann@afpcc.org](mailto:deann@afpcc.org).
- We will acknowledge receipt of all nominations. If you do not receive an acknowledgment by July 22, 2026, please email us at [deann@afpcc.org](mailto:deann@afpcc.org).
- This is a competitive process. You can resubmit a previous nomination, and it can take multiple attempts to win. Please use a current-year nomination form, but most of your materials can be similar to a previous submission. You can update with new achievements and impacts.

### **DEADLINE:**

**TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2026, at 5:00 PM (MST)**

**[Submission Link](#)**

**Thank you for supporting National Philanthropy Day in Colorado, [afpcc.org](http://afpcc.org)**



**Questions? Contact DeAnn Acosta: [deann@afpcc.org](mailto:deann@afpcc.org) or 720.234.1050**