



OACP Award Nomination Guide

A guide intended to help choose the award that best fits your nominee

Choosing the right award is an important part of a strong nomination. This guide summarizes the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police awards currently available for nomination, including who may be nominated, what each award is intended to recognize, and the key facts a nomination should demonstrate.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: MARCH 17, 2026

Nominations are accepted throughout the year. Nominations received after March 17 are considered for the following year's awards.

How to use this guide

- Start with the Award Finder on the next page to identify the strongest match.
- Then review the detailed eligibility and criteria before selecting the award on the nomination form.
- Choose the award whose purpose most directly matches the nominee's actions, service, or impact.

A note about two other recognitions: The President's Award is selected at the discretion of the OACP President and is not included here as a regular nomination choice. The Oregon Law Enforcement Medal of Honor is a separate State of Oregon award administered outside OACP's nomination process.

For current program information, visit policechief.org/programs/awards

Award Finder

Use this page as a quick starting point. Click an award name to jump to its full description.

Award	Who it is for	Best fit when...
<u>Chief of the Year Award</u>	OACP member	A currently serving Oregon police chief whose leadership, public-safety work, community service, and/or contributions to OACP stand out.
<u>Paul Nagy Award</u>	OACP member	Exceptional contributions to OACP that clearly exceed the high standards normally expected of members.
<u>Max Patterson Award</u>	OACP member	Outstanding OACP or community contributions through programs that provide exceptional benefit to young people, with direct Chief input and participation.
<u>Jim Jones Lifetime Achievement Award</u>	Retired OACP member	A long-serving retired member whose mentoring, continued OACP participation, and post-retirement community service further the profession.
<u>Karlyn Campbell Award</u>	OACP member	Sustained, meaningful mentoring of law enforcement leaders through guidance, encouragement, time, experience, and wisdom.
<u>OACP Medal of Honor</u>	OACP member	A member killed or seriously injured in the line of duty under the award's specific injury and duty criteria.
<u>OACP Medal of Valor</u>	OACP member	An act of courage involving risk of imminent serious injury in order to save or protect human life.
<u>OACP Lifesaving Award</u>	OACP member	Direct first aid, rescue, or intervention that saves or prolongs another person's life.
<u>Special Service Award</u>	Active OACP member	Extraordinary dedication and service to OACP through leadership, volunteerism, professional excellence, and work beyond expected responsibilities.
<u>Citizens Lifesaving Award</u>	Non-member citizen	A citizen whose direct first aid, rescue, or intervention saves the life of an OACP member.
<u>Partnership Award</u>	Non-member citizen	Outstanding leadership, contribution, and/or assistance to OACP.
<u>Citizen Award of Merit</u>	Non-member citizen	An exceptional act or sustained pattern of action that advances OACP's mission or significantly contributes to the law enforcement profession.
<u>Law Enforcement Legislative Champion Award</u>	Non-member individual	Outstanding and sustained support of law enforcement in Oregon through long-standing efforts in the Oregon Legislative Assembly.
<u>Youth Award of Merit</u>	Citizen under age 18	An exceptional act or sustained pattern of action that advances OACP's mission or significantly contributes to the law enforcement profession.
<u>Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice</u>	Family of an OACP member	Recognition of the family of an OACP member who dies in the lawful performance of police duty.

Before You Select the Award

A strong nomination starts by matching the nominee's story to the purpose of the award. Before making your selection, confirm the following:

- The nominee meets the award's member, retirement, age, role, or family eligibility requirements.
- The nominee's strongest accomplishment directly matches what the award is intended to recognize.
- Your nomination can describe specific actions, outcomes, leadership, service, or impact - not only general praise.
- For awards requiring sustained involvement or a pattern of service, the nomination documents that history over time.
- For lifesaving, valor, and line-of-duty awards, the facts meet the specific action, risk, injury, or duty criteria described in this guide.
- For the Chief of the Year Award, confirm the nominee is a currently serving Oregon police chief, an active OACP member, and not serving on the OACP Executive Board of Officers during the award year.
- For the Jim Jones Lifetime Achievement Award, confirm every post-retirement and length-of-membership requirement before selecting the award.

Still deciding between two awards? Choose the award whose eligibility requirements and stated purpose most directly match the nominee's defining contribution.

Current OACP Awards Information

Visit [OACP's Awards webpage](#) for current nomination status and program information.

General member-award eligibility

Unless an award below states otherwise, OACP's member awards are intended for members in good standing whose actions demonstrate leadership and contribute to the professionalism, objectives, or mission of OACP and the law enforcement profession.

Awards for OACP Members

The following awards recognize OACP members, with several awards carrying additional eligibility requirements described below.

Chief of the Year Award

OACP MEMBER AWARD | *Current chief leadership and impact*

BEST FIT: Use this award for a currently serving Oregon police chief whose overall leadership record stands out in public safety, community service, law enforcement administration, and/or service to OACP.

Who may be nominated

- A current Chief of Police serving in Oregon.
- Eligible agencies include municipalities (including contract cities), tribal agencies, universities and colleges, and special districts.
- The nominee must be an active OACP member.
- Members of the OACP Executive Board of Officers are not eligible for this award during a year in which they are serving on that Board.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- Significant contributions to the criminal justice profession and overall public safety.
- Exceptional service to the nominee's community.
- Meaningful contributions to the betterment or advancement of OACP.
- Notable accomplishments as a law enforcement administrator.

About the award

Created in 2025, the Chief of the Year Award recognizes the broad impact of a sitting Oregon police chief. It is the best fit when the nomination is about the nominee's overall leadership as a chief rather than one narrower act, program, or area of service.

Paul Nagy Award

OACP MEMBER AWARD | *Exceptional service to OACP at the highest level*

BEST FIT: Choose this award when a member's contributions to OACP are extraordinary, sustained, and clearly exceed the already high level of service expected from association members.

Who may be nominated

- An OACP member whose contributions to the Association exceed the high standards and contributions normally made by members.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- A record of meaningful service that has materially advanced OACP's objectives, mission, or professionalism.
- Leadership and involvement that go well beyond routine membership or expected participation.

- A level of contribution that reflects a lasting positive impact on OACP and its members.

Why this award carries special significance

The award was originally known as the Meritorious Service Award. In 1989 it was renamed for Paul Nagy, Chief of Police in The Dalles, who served OACP in numerous capacities, represented OACP on IACP committees, and served as OACP President in 1987 and 1988. He was remembered for professionalism, leadership, and a welcoming spirit toward fellow members. OACP later designated the Paul Nagy Award and the Max Patterson Award as awards of equal value and collectively its highest honors.

How it differs from the Special Service Award

Both awards recognize service to OACP. The Paul Nagy Award is the stronger fit when the nomination reflects an exceptional body of contribution at the highest level-service that clearly exceeds the high standards normally associated with OACP membership.

Max Patterson Award

OACP MEMBER AWARD | *Outstanding youth-focused programs and community impact*

BEST FIT: Choose this award when an OACP member has made an outstanding contribution to OACP or the community through a program that provides exceptional benefit to young people.

Who may be nominated

- An OACP member whose work has produced outstanding benefit to young people in the community.
- Current OACP guidance states that the program should include direct input from the Chief and the Chief's participation.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- A specific program, initiative, or sustained effort that benefits young people.
- The nominee's direct involvement and meaningful contribution - not merely the existence of a program within the agency.
- The value or impact the program has had on youth, the community, OACP, or the broader law enforcement mission.

Why this award carries special significance

Max Patterson served as Gladstone Chief of Police from 1981 until his death in 1990 and was deeply involved in OACP. He was a driving force behind the Oregon Executive Development Institute, helping expand access to high-caliber executive training for Oregon law enforcement leaders. The Max Patterson Award was created in 1991 in his memory. OACP designated it and the Paul Nagy Award as awards of equal value and collectively its highest honors.

Jim Jones Lifetime Achievement Award

RETIRED OACP MEMBER AWARD | *Post-retirement mentorship, service, and continued professional impact*

BEST FIT: Use this award for a retired OACP member whose service did not end at retirement and whose continued mentoring, OACP involvement, and community service have advanced the profession.

Who may be nominated

- A member who retired in good standing.
- The nominee must have served a minimum of fifteen (15) years as an active OACP member.

Required elements

- Displayed the characteristics and qualities of a mentor.
- Helped fulfill OACP's mission through contributions that exceeded the high standards normally made by members.
- Continued active involvement in OACP after retirement, including attendance at least one OACP function per year.
- Actively served on at least one OACP committee after retirement.
- Served in a community capacity after retirement that furthers the professionalism of law enforcement.

About Jim Jones and the award

Jim Jones joined the Ontario Police Department in 1958 and retired in 1990 after a law enforcement career spanning more than three decades, including 28 years as police chief. He later served as an interim chief in Baker and Milton-Freewater and remained deeply involved in law enforcement training and OACP. He attended 40 OACP annual conferences and is identified in OACP's historical description as the only member to have served two terms as OACP President. The award reflects that same model of enduring service, mentorship, and professional contribution after retirement.

How it differs from the Karlyn Campbell Award

The Jim Jones Award has specific retirement, length-of-membership, continued OACP involvement, committee service, and post-retirement community-service requirements. For a strong mentor who does not meet those post-retirement requirements, the Karlyn Campbell Award may be the better fit.

Karlyn Campbell Award

OACP MEMBER AWARD | *Sustained mentorship and servant leadership*

BEST FIT: Choose this award when the nominee's defining contribution is sustained mentorship—being consistently available to help other leaders navigate difficult challenges, solve complex problems, and grow professionally.

Who may be nominated

- An OACP member who has distinguished themselves as a mentor to others in the organization.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- A sustained commitment to mentoring leaders rather than a single act of assistance.
- A willingness to give time, experience, and wisdom in support of others.
- Guidance and encouragement that helps others navigate difficult challenges and solve complex problems.
- Availability as a personal and leadership resource.
- A nurturing, supportive approach that cultivates professional growth, competence, integrity, and stronger leadership.

How it differs from the Jim Jones Lifetime Achievement Award

The Karlyn Campbell Award centers on the quality and sustained impact of mentorship. It does not carry the Jim Jones Award's specific requirements for retirement, 15 years of active membership, annual post-retirement OACP participation, committee service after retirement, and post-retirement community service.

OACP Medal of Honor

OACP MEMBER AWARD | *Line-of-duty death or qualifying serious injury*

BEST FIT: Use this award when an OACP member is killed in the line of duty or sustains a qualifying serious injury because of the performance of law enforcement duty.

Who may be nominated

- An OACP member killed in the line of duty, or
- An OACP member seriously injured in the line of duty.

Duty requirement

The member must have been acting in their official capacity as a law enforcement officer and been seriously injured or killed because of their employment as a law enforcement officer.

What qualifies as “seriously injured”

For this award, a serious injury is one that causes great bodily harm and creates a probability of death, causes significant permanent disfigurement, or causes significant permanent loss or impairment of the function of a body part or organ.

Important distinction

This award recognizes what happened to the OACP member in the line of duty. If the nominee instead took a courageous action involving imminent risk of serious injury to save or protect another person, review the Medal of Valor. If the key fact is that the member successfully saved a life, review the Lifesaving Award.

OACP Medal of Valor

OACP MEMBER AWARD | *Extraordinary courage in the face of imminent serious injury*

BEST FIT: Choose this award when an OACP member willingly undertook an act of courage, faced a risk of imminent serious injury, and acted for the purpose of saving or protecting human life.

Who may be nominated

- An OACP member who willingly distinguished themselves through an act of courage.

Required elements

- The action involved a risk of imminent serious injury to the nominee.
- The purpose of the action was to save or protect human life.

Important distinction

Valor focuses on courage and the serious personal risk accepted by the nominee. A successful lifesaving result alone does not automatically make an act a Valor nomination; the defining element is the nominee’s willingness to face imminent risk of serious injury in order to protect life.

OACP Lifesaving Award

OACP MEMBER AWARD | *Direct action that saves or prolongs a human life*

BEST FIT: Choose this award when an OACP member’s direct and immediate action saved or prolonged another person’s life.

Who may be nominated

- An OACP member who saved the life of another human being.

A nomination should meet at least one of these standards

- The member performed direct and immediate first aid that saved or prolonged a life, and without that direct action the person would in all probability have died.
- The member performed an emergency rescue or intervention that saved a life.

Important distinction

This award is about the lifesaving result and the nominee's direct action. Unlike the Medal of Valor, it does not require that the nominee faced a risk of imminent serious injury.

Special Service Award

ACTIVE OACP MEMBER AWARD | *Extraordinary dedication and service to OACP*

BEST FIT: Choose this award for an active OACP member whose extraordinary dedication, leadership, volunteerism, and professional excellence have strengthened the Association and benefited member agencies.

Who may be nominated

- An Active OACP Member who has provided outstanding service to OACP.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- Meaningful leadership, volunteerism, or professional excellence in service to OACP.
- Work that has strengthened the OACP community or enhanced opportunities for member agencies.
- Service that goes above and beyond the nominee's expected responsibilities.
- A meaningful investment of time and expertise in initiatives that strengthen OACP, support colleagues statewide, or advance policing in Oregon.
- An example of service that can inspire peers and future leaders.

How it differs from the Paul Nagy Award

The Special Service Award recognizes extraordinary service to OACP by an active member. The Paul Nagy Award is reserved for contributions that exceed the high standards normally made by members and carries the legacy of one of OACP's collectively highest honors.

Awards for Non-Members

These awards recognize citizens, community partners, young people, legislative champions, and families whose actions or support have had a significant connection to OACP or the law enforcement profession.

Citizens Lifesaving Award

NON-MEMBER AWARD | *A citizen saves the life of an OACP member*

BEST FIT: Use this award when a citizen's direct action saved or prolonged the life of an OACP member.

Who may be nominated

- A citizen who saved the life of an OACP member.

A nomination should meet at least one of these standards

- The citizen performed direct and immediate first aid that saved or prolonged the member's life, and without that direct action the member would in all probability have died.
- The citizen performed an emergency rescue or intervention that saved the life of the OACP member.

Important distinction

This is the specific lifesaving award for a non-member who saves an OACP member. If the citizen performed another exceptional act or made a broader contribution to law enforcement, the Citizen Award of Merit may be a better fit.

Partnership Award

NON-MEMBER AWARD | *Outstanding leadership, contributions, or assistance to OACP*

BEST FIT: Choose this award for a non-member citizen whose support of OACP reflects an outstanding partnership rather than a single lifesaving or emergency act.

Who may be nominated

- A citizen who has provided outstanding leadership, contributions, and/or assistance to OACP.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- A meaningful connection between the nominee's efforts and OACP.
- Leadership, assistance, or contributions that have been notably valuable to the Association.
- A level of partnership or support that stands out as worthy of Association-wide recognition.

Important distinction

Use the Partnership Award when the nominee's impact is rooted in sustained support, collaboration, leadership, or assistance to OACP. For an exceptional act or broader impact on the law enforcement profession that is not primarily an OACP partnership, consider the Citizen Award of Merit.

Citizen Award of Merit

NON-MEMBER AWARD | *Exceptional citizen action or significant contribution to law enforcement*

BEST FIT: Choose this award for a citizen whose exceptional act—or continued pattern of actions - has advanced OACP's mission and goals or made a significant impact on the law enforcement profession.

Who may be nominated

- A citizen who is not being nominated under the Youth Award of Merit.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- An exceptional act, or a continued pattern of meaningful actions.
- A clear connection to furthering OACP's mission and goals, or
- A significant impact or contribution to the law enforcement profession.

Important distinction

If the nominee is under age 18, use the Youth Award of Merit. If the citizen's defining action was saving the life of an OACP member, use the Citizens Lifesaving Award.

Law Enforcement Legislative Champion Award

NON-MEMBER AWARD | *Sustained legislative support for Oregon law enforcement*

BEST FIT: Choose this award when the nominee's distinguishing contribution is long-standing work in the Oregon Legislative Assembly that has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to law enforcement in Oregon.

Who may be nominated

- An individual whose contribution to Oregon law enforcement is rooted in long-standing efforts in the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- An outstanding contribution to law enforcement in Oregon.
- A sustained - not merely one-time - record of contribution.
- Long-standing efforts connected to the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Important note

OACP's current public criteria for this award are concise and do not list additional eligibility requirements. A nomination should therefore clearly document the nominee's sustained legislative record and its impact on Oregon law enforcement.

Youth Award of Merit

NON-MEMBER AWARD | *Exceptional action or contribution by a person under 18*

BEST FIT: Choose this award for a citizen under age 18 whose exceptional act or continued pattern of actions has advanced OACP's mission and goals or made a significant impact on the law enforcement profession.

Who may be nominated

- A citizen younger than eighteen (18) years of age.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- An exceptional act, or a continued pattern of meaningful actions.
- A clear connection to furthering OACP's mission and goals, or
- A significant impact or contribution to the law enforcement profession.

Important distinction

The criteria mirror the Citizen Award of Merit, with age being the key difference. Nominees under age 18 should be considered for the Youth Award of Merit.

Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice

FAMILY RECOGNITION | *Recognition of a family's sacrifice following a line-of-duty death*

BEST FIT: Use this award to recognize the family of an OACP member who dies in the lawful performance of police duty.

Who may be recognized

- The family of an OACP member who dies while lawfully performing police duty.

What the nomination should demonstrate

- The OACP member died while in the lawful performance of police duty.
- The nomination recognizes the family's sacrifices over the years in support of their loved one's law enforcement profession.

Important distinction

This award recognizes the family's sacrifice. The OACP Medal of Honor, by contrast, recognizes the OACP member who was killed or seriously injured in the line of duty. Depending on the circumstances, both criteria may be relevant to the same incident, but they honor different recipients and different aspects of the sacrifice.