

NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL RECOGNITION AND AWARD NOMINATIONS

Postmarked no later than March 1, 2026

It is appropriate to nominate yourself and your own post, Explorers, and Advisors.
Awards will be presented at specified post events. Additional nomination forms may be downloaded at:
www.explorenow.org.

AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR EXPLORERS:

- 1. LEARNING FOR LIFE YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD:** An award given, with regard to tenure, to the Explorer for leadership shown through Exploring and the community. This is a nationally recognized award and is the highest honor a local council can bestow on an Explorer. **Separate application form available on website.**
- 2. YOUTH SERVICE AWARD:** An award given to an Explorer who shows citizenship, kindness and leadership through serving others in their community.
- 3. EXPLORER OF THE YEAR:** An award for an active Explorer who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and provided outstanding service to their post.
- 4. NEW EXPLORER OF THE YEAR:** An award given to a first-time registered Explorer who has demonstrated remarkable service to their post, as well as social and career skills.
- 5. LIFE SAVING AWARD:** A distinguished award for an active youth member who has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save a life.

AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR ADULT ADVISORS:

- 6. LEARNING FOR LIFE YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD:** An award given, with regard to tenure, to the Advisor for leadership shown through Exploring and the community. This is a nationally recognized award and is the highest honor a local can bestow on an Advisor. **Separate application form available on website.**
- 7. POST ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:** An award given to the advisor of one post for excellence in coordination and creative planning.
- 8. ASSOCIATE POST ADVISOR OF THE YEAR:** An award given to a registered adult advisor. Based on service to youth by assisting the main advisor.
- 9. NEW ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:** An award given to a first-time registered adult advisor who has demonstrated leadership and career specific skills.
- 10. LIFE SAVING AWARD:** A distinguished award for an active youth member who has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save a life.

AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR POSTS:

- 11. NEW POST OF THE YEAR:** An award for the most enthusiastic first year post which has empowered their youth to be leaders and participated in council events and trainings.
- 12. COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:** An award given to the post most focused on its community. This is shown through special community service projects.
- 13. INNOVATION AWARD:** An award given to the post that has the most noteworthy and innovative ideas for creativity in post program, fundraising, recruiting or other post activities.
- 14. POST OF THE YEAR:** An award given to the post that has raised the standard for others by creating an exceptional program, utilizing council resources, attending council events and trainings and recruiting and supporting youth leaders.
- 15. MARKETING AWARD:** An award given to the post that displays the best marketing for their post and the Exploring Program. Please attach an example of the marketing piece to your nomination form.

RECOGNITION FOR POSTS:

(Nomination forms are not required for these two awards.)

- 16. JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE:** An award presented to all posts that have met the criteria for national recognition of quality in post organization and programming.
- 17. TENURE RECOGNITION:** An award for posts that achieve 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years of participation.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS - NATIONAL EXPLORING

For more information on National Awards, go to www.exploring.org and click on Awards & Recognitions.

Career Achievement Award Program – Youth

The Learning for Life Career Achievement Award program allows young people to be recognized for community service and to acquire and be recognized for career proficiency achievement in either arts & humanities, aviation, business, communications, engineering, fire & emergency service, health, law & government, law enforcement, science, skilled trades, social services, or all 12 career clusters. It gives Explorers and student participants distinguished credentials for their resume.

Congressional Award – Advisor

An adult advisor, whom you choose, helps you set challenging but achievable goals in the four program areas. Once you've achieved your goals, you summarize them on a Recommendation Form. You'll receive a letter, which will let you know when your Senator and /or member of Congress will present you with your medal and certificate.

Leadership Award

The Learning for Life Leadership Award is a distinguished award for Explorers, high school Learning for Life program participants, and adult volunteer leaders who have given exceptional leadership in Exploring or Learning for Life programs. The Leadership Award is available annually to all Explorer posts and Learning for Life high school groups.

President's Volunteer Service Award – Advisors

Learning for Life has a proud history of service learning. Our volunteers continue to work to meet the needs of their neighborhoods and the community. Individuals who have completed 4,000 or more volunteer service hours over the course of their lifetime are eligible to receive the President's Call to Service Award.

Lifesaving or Meritorious Award – Youth or Leader

Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader of LFL where the evidence shows (in accordance with prescribed regulations) that he/she saved or attempted to save a life, or performed a significant act of service.

Law Enforcement Exploring Community Crime Prevention Award - Post

The International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners provides an annual recognition of Explorer posts that exhibit outstanding support of their communities. Includes a plaque and pin.

***William H. Spurgeon, III Award – Adults**

The Spurgeon Award is presented annually to five individuals who are outstanding role models for youth, because they have made significant strides in their careers and have rendered exceptional community service, either personally or through their company/organization affiliations. The award is named after William Spurgeon, the founder of the contemporary, co-educational Exploring program.

*Nominations are submitted through the Northern Star Council. For more information, please contact Brian Swerine at bswerine@explorenow.org .



NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the following information for your nomination.
(You may use this form or send an e-mail to: cgalloway@explorenow.org)

Postmarked no later than March 1, 2026

SECTION ONE: NOMINEE

Individual or post nominated: _____ Post number #: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

This application is for the _____ Award (one per form)

(Please do a separate nomination for each person or post you are nominating.)

SECTION TWO: NOMINATOR

Nominator's Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ email: _____

SECTION THREE:

On a separate sheet of paper, address the following questions, as well as the criteria of the award.

Tenure w/post: _____ Position(s) in post: _____

Leadership Position(s) Held: _____

- Additional Exploring activities
- Why do you feel this person/post should receive this award?

Nominator's signature: _____ Date: _____

Send Nomination applications to:

cgalloway@explorenow.org

Attn: Colleen Galloway
Exploring Awards
6202 Bloomington Rd
Fort Snelling MN 55111