

IAAPA Individual Achievement Awards Criteria

The IAAPA Individual Achievement Awards celebrate exceptional individuals who go above and beyond to inspire progress, excellence, and positive change across the attractions industry through four prestigious awards: The IAAPA Hall of Fame, Regional Inspiration Award, Regional Service Award, and Regional Young Professional Award. Below, we have defined some differentiations between the four awards to help you accurately place your nominee.

Dimension	Young Professional	Service	Inspiration	Hall of Fame
Nature of Contribution	Volunteerism, Service to IAAPA, Emerging Leadership	Mentorship, Volunteerism, Service to IAAPA	Improvements, Applications, Leadership, Education	Breakthroughs, Inventions, Foundational Ideas
Scope	Regional, Organizational, Within IAAPA	Regional, Within IAAPA	Regional, Organizational, Niche	Global, Industry-wide
Impact	Positive and growing impact within IAAPA and the broader industry	Strengthens IAAPA programs, communities, and member engagement	Meaningful influence on peers, organizations, or their region	Transformational impact on the attractions industry
Legacy	Early-career promise with long-term potential	Sustained contribution and commitment	Mid to Long-Term	Long-Term, Iconic, Historic
Audience Inspired	Emerging professionals, peers, and early-career members	IAAPA members, volunteers, and leadership communities	Peers, teams, organizations, and regional communities	The global attractions industry and future generations

**Judging task forces for the Regional Individual Achievement Awards select one(1) winner per category, per region each year, while the Hall of Fame judging task force is encouraged to select three(3) inductees each year.*





The IAAPA Hall of Fame Awards

Award Description: The IAAPA Hall of Fame is a prestigious award that honors individuals whose exceptional contributions have had a profound and lasting impact on the global attractions industry. As the pinnacle of industry recognition, it celebrates those whose dedication, remarkable achievements, and enduring legacy have shaped the past, present, and future of the field. The IAAPA Hall of Fame stands as a tribute to those visionaries who, through

Award Criteria:

1. IAAPA Membership past or present is preferred, but not required.
2. Must have been associated with the attractions industry for a minimum of **20** years.
3. Must be affiliated with a theme or amusement park, water park, family entertainment center, zoo, aquarium, museum, science center, natural or adventure attraction, resort, or other attraction, manufacturer, supplier, or consultant.
4. Must have contributions with global impact two or more IAAPA regions
5. Must have contributions in one or more of the following areas:
 - Innovation
 - Education
 - Leadership
 - Influence both within their organization and industry-wide that will continue to be of value in the future

Examples of contributions to the attractions industry at large:

- An individual who has contributed to the success and inspiration of other global industry leaders.
- Creating innovations or technologies that redefine how attractions or experiences are designed, operated, or imagined.
- Leading global initiatives or movements that elevate safety, creativity, or guest experience across the entire industry.
- An innovation in conjunction with attractions, rides, exhibitions, entertainment, food, merchandise, games, engineering, safety, or other area critical to the success of the attractions industry.
- Producing seminal literature, research, or thought leadership that becomes foundational to the field.
- Delivering a marketing or creative campaign that permanently shifts industry norms or consumer expectations.





Application Materials:

- General information about the nominee (Name, Email, Region, IAAPA Certification, Company, Years Active in the Industry)
- A separate, typewritten document, no more than three (3) pages that summarizes the nominee's lifetime achievements and foundational contributions to the attractions industry. The nomination should include, but is not limited to:
 - Lifetime achievements and foundational contributions to the attractions industry
 - Breakthrough innovations, inventions, or transformative ideas
 - Global, industry-wide scope and impact
 - Long-term, iconic, and historic legacy
 - Enduring influence on the industry and future generations
 - Relevant timelines/dates to contextualize your nomination
- Optional: Any related additional material, including, but not limited to newspaper articles, front page of a patent(not a full patent), magazine articles, excerpts from books (please do not send entire books), and any other documents or materials that directly support the nominee's industry contributions.
 - There is space for up to four (4) URLs/links, and four (4) separate document uploads
 - Please note that document uploads should follow this naming convention: LAST NAME OFNOMINEE | name of material being submitted | submission year. *Example: COOK New York TimesTop 100 Article 2025*

Deadline:

June 22, 2026

Awarded At:

IAAPA LEGENDS 2026

