

### 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.

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Young Professional</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Inspiration</b>	<b>Hall of Fame</b>
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 Regional Young Professional Awards

**Award Description:** The IAAPA Regional Young Professional Awards honor members who demonstrate a strong commitment to the attractions industry through leadership, teamwork, integrity, and ongoing development of their knowledge and skills in this dynamic field. This award recognizes professionals who actively support IAAPA's mission to grow and nurture the amusement park and attractions industry.

### Award Criteria:

1. Meets IAAPA's definition of young professional: Individuals 35 or younger (i.e. they may not turn 36 in the calendar year where the winners are being selected (not when the award is presented).
2. Must exemplify IAAPA's core values of passion, respect, transparency, courage/innovation, and inclusive/value collaboration
3. Must be employed full-time by a member company or as an individual IAAPA member.
4. Held a lead (people or project management) position for one (1) or more years in their organization.
5. Have held two (2) or more IAAPA volunteer positions. Examples of volunteer roles with IAAPA include:
  - a. Board of Directors, Committee, or Task Force chair/member
  - b. Speaking at an IAAPA event in person/virtual
  - c. Writing an article/feature/book for an IAAPA publication
  - d. Directly organizing/supporting IAAPA functions
  - e. IAAPA Mentor
  - f. IAAPA Show Ambassador

### 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 volunteerism within IAAPA and impact within the attractions industry in their region. The nomination should include, but is not limited to:
  - Emerging leadership and early-career contributions within IAAPA and/or the attractions industry
  - Volunteerism, service, and involvement with IAAPA initiatives or programs
  - Regional or organizational impact with evidence of positive growth
  - Contributions that benefit peers, emerging professionals, or early-career members





- Demonstrated potential for long-term industry leadership
- Relevant timelines/dates to contextualize the nomination
- 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 OF NOMINEE | name of material being submitted | submission year. Example: COOK New York TimesTop 100 Article 2025

**Deadline:**

October 16, 2026

**Awarded At:**

IAAPA Honors 2027





## The IAAPA Regional Service Awards

**Award Description:** The IAAPA Regional Service Award honors individuals who have generously volunteered their time and expertise to enhance their communities, IAAPA, and the attractions industry. Recipients demonstrate exceptional dedication and leadership, making a meaningful impact on the industry. They are often seen as trusted mentors and resources, having contributed significantly to IAAPA and the industry within their region through multiple volunteer roles.

### Award Criteria:

1. The nominee must provide service within their region, and exemplify IAAPA's core values of passion, respect, transparency, courage/innovation, and inclusive/value collaboration.
2. Have mentored or developed future leaders and/or been impactful in education of others.
3. Have held numerous IAAPA volunteer positions. Examples of volunteer roles with IAAPA include:
  - a. Board of Directors, Committee, or Task Force chair/member
  - b. Speaking at an IAAPA event in person/virtual
  - c. Writing an article/feature/book for an IAAPA publication
  - d. Directly organizing/supporting IAAPA functions
  - e. IAAPA Mentor
  - f. IAAPA Show Ambassador
4. Made a significant contribution to the attractions industry by leveraging their expertise to promote industry standards, including safety, sustainability, guest satisfaction, innovation, and more.

### 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 service to IAAPA and to the attractions industry in their region. The nomination should include, but is not limited to:
  - Sustained service, volunteerism, and dedication to IAAPA and the attractions industry
  - Mentorship, leadership, or committee involvement that strengthens IAAPA programs
  - Contributions that enhance member engagement and community development
  - Examples of them upholding IAAPA's core values and promoting industry standards within their expertise





- Long-standing commitment that supports the association's continued success
- Relevant timelines/dates to contextualize the nomination
- 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 OF NOMINEE | name of material being submitted | submission year. *Example: COOK New York TimesTop 100 Article 2025*

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## The IAAPA Regional Inspiration Awards

**Award Description:** The IAAPA Regional Inspiration Award is a prestigious honor that awards the significant impact made by individuals within their respective region. It serves as a testament to their unwavering commitment, outstanding achievements, and regional contributions within the industry. The Inspiration Award distinguishes individuals who while pursuing their dreams, greatly benefited the industry in their region specifically.

### 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 **10** 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 in one or more of the following areas:
  - a. Innovation
  - b. Education
  - c. Leadership
  - d. Influence both within their organization and region-wide that will continue to be of value in the future

### Examples of contributions to the attractions industry:

- An individual who has contributed to the success and inspiration of other regional industry leaders.
- Creating innovations or technologies that contribute how attractions or experiences are designed, operated, or imagined within their region
- Enhancing existing equipment, processes, or services in ways that improve efficiency, safety, or guest satisfaction.
- Leading regional or organizational initiatives that demonstrate creativity, leadership, or operational excellence.
- Developing training programs, presentations, or written materials that help professionals grow.
- Delivering marketing or communication efforts that significantly improve performance and contribute to the marketing standards in their region





### 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 achievements and contributions to the attractions industry. The nomination should include, but is not limited to:
  - Leadership, education, or applied improvements within the attractions industry
  - Actions or ideas that meaningfully influence peers, teams, organizations, or their region
  - Demonstrated ability to inspire others and drive professional growth or innovation
  - Regional, organizational, or niche impact with mid to long-term significance within the industry
  - Clear evidence of positive influence beyond the nominee's immediate role
  - Relevant timelines/dates to contextualize the nomination
- 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 anyother 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 OF NOMINEE | name of material being submitted | submission year. *Example: COOK New York TimesTop 100 Article 2025*

### Deadline:

October 16, 2026

### Awarded At:

IAAPA Honors 2027





## 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

