

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 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*

Deadline:

October 16, 2026

Awarded At:

IAAPA Honors 2027

