

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 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

