

FLORIDA PTA **AWARDS**

Program Awards
Honorary Awards
Membership Awards



2025 - 2026

General Awards Information

Every year, Florida PTA offers awards and certificates to recognize PTA/PTSA achievement. Consider applying for awards to bring recognition to your unit, your unit's programs, or to individuals making a difference in your community.

Available Awards are listed in this Section. **Award application forms** will be available online at www.floridapta.org/florida-pta-awards after September 1. Unless noted, awards will be presented to an **Elementary, K-8 PTA or Middle, High School PTA/PTSA**, and a **County Council** when applicable.

Award Applications may be submitted at any point after September 1. Online award applications are **due no later than May 1st**. Complete the online submission form for each award.

IMPORTANT: To qualify for an award, the following compliance requirements must be fulfilled prior to submitting your application:

1. Current officer information must be on file with Florida PTA.
2. State and National portions of membership dues must be paid monthly as memberships are sold. Memberships can be sold all year. **For awards eligibility, all dues' payments for memberships sold must be received by Florida PTA by May 1st.**
3. Copy of the completed current audit must be on file with the Florida PTA office by **Aug 31**.
4. Copy of the **IRS 990** must be on file with the Florida PTA office by **Nov 30**.
5. **Bylaws** must be current (reviewed and approved by Florida PTA within the past three years).
6. Please check with your Council for any additional compliance requirements, such as, but not limited to, Council dues.



Program Awards

Advocacy Award - This award honors PTA units that actively promote and support advocacy efforts at the local, state, and or national levels to improve the lives of all children. Recognized units engage in initiatives that aim to change laws, policies, practices, or systems in ways that align with and advance the mission and purpose of PTA. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Award (DEIJ) - This award recognizes PTA units that demonstrate a strong commitment to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) within their schools and communities. Honorees actively support and implement initiatives that unite a diverse range of students, families, and community members for the collective good of the school. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

Eugenia B. Thomas Communication Award – This award recognizes the PTA, PTSA, or County Council that excels in using a variety of communication methods—such as newsletters, social media, and websites—to effectively engage and inform parents, members, and local units. Honorees demonstrate creativity, consistency, and clarity in their outreach efforts. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, County Council or Community PTA.

Family and Community Engagement Award - This award recognizes PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that actively foster meaningful family and community engagement. Honorees demonstrate a commitment to strengthening the home-school-community connection through impactful programs, projects, and events that encourage involvement and build positive relationships among students, families, staff, and the broader community. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

Footprint Award - This award honors a PTA, PTSA, or County Council that develops an original program with the potential to be replicated by other units across the state. Recognized programs should demonstrate creativity, relevance, and a meaningful impact on students, families, or school communities. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

Friends of the Environment Award - This award recognizes PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that create and implement programs focused on protecting and preserving the environment. Honorees promote environmental stewardship through initiatives that educate, engage, and inspire students, families, and communities to take action toward a more sustainable future. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

Humanitarian Award - This award honors PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that demonstrate outstanding initiative in addressing the needs of their local community and beyond. Recognized units actively engage in service projects and activities that make a positive impact, foster compassion, and strengthen community connections. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

Literacy Award - This award recognizes PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that actively promote literacy among students, families, and the broader community. Honorees support the school's Media Center and implement activities that foster a love for reading and writing, while encouraging critical thinking and lifelong learning through the written word. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, County Council or Community PTA.

Local Unit Achievement Award - This award recognizes PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that demonstrate excellence in planning, goal setting, and execution. Honorees show strong organizational practices by following basic PTA procedures and achieving unity of action in support of their mission. Their commitment to effective leadership, collaboration, and accountability sets a standard for others to follow. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

Mentor-A-PTA Award - This award honors PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that exemplify the spirit of collaboration by adopting and supporting another PTA unit. Support may include training, leadership development, financial assistance, or other means of helping the adopted PTA implement and sustain PTA values and goals. This partnership strengthens the overall PTA mission and fosters unity across school communities. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

Outstanding Administrator of the Year Award - This award honors a school administrator who demonstrates exceptional support, involvement, and collaboration with the PTA. Recognized administrators actively contribute to the success of the PTA and foster a positive partnership between school leadership, families, and the community. One administrator will be recognized from each of the following: Elementary School PTA, and Middle/High School PTSA.

Safety Award – This award recognizes PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that provide effective safety programs aimed at protecting children's well-being. Honorees offer valuable information and resources to students, parents, and communities to promote safe environments both at school and beyond. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

Special Needs Students with Unique Abilities Award - This award honors PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that actively support programs and activities inclusive of students with disabilities. Recognized units work to enhance the participation, visibility, and contributions of students with disabilities within their schools and communities, fostering an environment of acceptance and equal opportunity. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA.

STEM Award – This award is presented to PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that successfully implement STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs. These programs provide a strong framework to inspire and encourage student engagement and learning in these critical fields. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle School PTSA, and High School PTSA

Trailblazer Award - This award honors PTA, PTSA, and County Council units that excel in forging strong partnerships between schools and the wider community—including places of worship, businesses, and community leaders. Recognized units lead innovative programs that promote collaboration and advance the PTA mission by strengthening community ties. One PTA unit will be recognized in each of the following categories: Elementary School PTA, Middle/High School PTSA, and County Council or Community PTA

PTSA and Student Awards - These awards aim to encourage and increase student participation within Middle and High School PTSA units and County Councils. They also recognize and celebrate the meaningful contributions and leadership of student members who positively impact their schools and communities.

PTSA Recognition Award - This award recognizes Middle and High School PTSA units and County Councils that have successfully transitioned from PTA to PTSA within the past year. Honorees demonstrate a strong commitment to student involvement by establishing defined student representative positions and fostering meaningful student leadership.

Student Advocate Award – This award honors a student at the local unit or County Council level who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service. The recipient has made significant contributions that positively impact their school, PTA/PTSA, and community through dedication, initiative, and a commitment to making a difference.

Student Community Service Award – PTA/PTSA units may submit an application on behalf of a group of five or more students who have participated in a community service project deemed worthy of recognition. The group does not need to be directly affiliated with the school or the submitting PTA/PTSA unit to qualify.

PTSA Student Involvement Award – This award recognizes Middle and High School PTSA units and County Councils that actively encourage student membership and foster increased student involvement. Honorees demonstrate meaningful student participation in the planning and execution of PTSA programs, empowering students to take leadership roles and contribute to their school communities.

The President's Awards - No additional application is required for these awards. Recipients are chosen by the Awards Committee and recommended for approval by the President. The **President's Standing in the Gap Award** is selected solely at the discretion of the President. All awards are presented during the Leadership Convention.

President's All Children Are Our Children Award - This award recognizes a PTA unit for programs and events that best fulfill the mission of the Florida PTA President. It honors a PTA that has made significant efforts to advance equity and opportunity for every child, with a special focus on supporting vulnerable and under-resourced children across the state.

President's Local Unit Achievement Award - This award is presented to an Elementary or K-8 PTA and a Middle or High School PTA/PTSA in recognition of outstanding achievement in enhancing the quality of their units. Areas of excellence include compliance, membership growth, and participation in training at the county, regional, and state levels. Recipients are selected by the President from the pool of Local Unit Achievement Award applications.

President's Program Award - This award is presented to an Elementary or K-8 PTA, a Middle or High School PTA/PTSA, and a County Council for outstanding programs that serve as models for others to emulate. Recipients exemplify the mission of PTA through innovative, impactful initiatives. Winners are selected by the President from the pool of Trailblazer Award applications.

President's Standing in the Gap Award - This prestigious award is presented by the President during the Leadership Convention to an individual or organization that has consistently gone above and beyond in supporting the President's mission.

Honorary Awards

Honorary Awards - These awards are available for presentation year-round, providing opportunities for special recognition at any time.

History Walk of Fame - This unique honor allows you to recognize someone special by having their name inscribed on a brick added to the History Walk of Fame at the Florida PTA State Office in Orlando. **There is a \$100 fee for this award.** The recipient will also receive a commemorative pin symbolizing this recognition.

Honorary State Life Membership – This award recognizes individuals for meritorious and outstanding service on behalf of children and youth. **There is a \$75 fee for this honor.** Recipients will receive a certificate, a commemorative pin, and a wallet ID card as symbols of their dedication and achievement.

President's Award of Honor – This award honors individuals for their outstanding service to children and recognizes those special people who have made significant contributions to the PTA community. Eligible recipients include educators, volunteers, students, individuals, and businesses who have made a meaningful difference in the lives of children. To be eligible, recipients must already hold a Florida PTA Honorary Life Membership. There is a \$30 fee for this award. Each honoree will receive a certificate from Florida PTA, and their name will be displayed at the Florida PTA State Office in Orlando. Net proceeds from this award support the Florida PTA Scholarship Fund and the Florida PTA Building Fund.

Membership Awards - The 500+ PTA Service Club – Nominate any individual who has been a member of a local unit, County Council unit, or State PTA unit for **at least 25 years** in recognition of their long-standing dedication and service to PTA. Each year, **twenty (20) honorees** will be selected for induction. **Past Florida PTA Presidents** will be automatically inducted and do not require nomination.

100% Faculty Membership Award – This award recognizes schools that achieve strong PTA/PTSA membership among school-based faculty and staff. Eligible members include full-time principals, deans, teachers, librarians/media specialists, counselors, support staff, and administrators. To qualify, faculty membership must be reported, and dues must be received by the Florida PTA State Office **no later than May 1st**.

Acorn Award – An Acorn Award Certificate will be given to the local PTA that has a majority of its faculty as members but, for some reason, cannot achieve 100%.

Celebrate Membership Award – This certificate is awarded to PTA/PTSA units that achieve membership equal to the number of families represented in the school as of **Day 5 of the new school year**, representing 100% membership. If the exact number of families cannot be determined, the following enrollment-based estimates may be used as a guideline. These adjusted percentages provide a fair method for recognizing schools that strive for full family engagement through PTA membership.

- **75% of students for K-5 (6 year schools)**
- **75% of students for K-8 (7-9 year schools)**
- **80% of students for (3-4 year schools)**
- **85% of students for (2 year schools) - 95% of students for single grade centers.**

Community Membership Award – PTA's mission includes building strong connections between schools and the broader community—including places of worship, local businesses, and community leaders. This award recognizes PTA/PTSA units that demonstrate exceptional outreach by securing **at least 25 community members**

as part of their membership.

*Note: Parents who also serve in community roles are **excluded** from this count.*

Early Bird Award – This award will be given to each local PTA/PTSA submitting an application form and payment of state and national dues for 100% membership or any amount over last year’s membership (See the Celebrate Membership Award criteria for details on 100% membership. Note that if the total school population decreases, total membership may be less than last year but still achieve 100% membership as calculated.). Due dates for each award are as follows:

- **Golden Early Bird Award** - Dues must be paid and received in the **Florida PTA Office on or before October 1.**
- **Silver Early Bird Award** - Dues must be paid and received in the **Florida PTA Office on or before November 1.**
- **Bronze Early Bird Award** - Dues must be paid and received in the **Florida PTA Office on or before December 1.**

Grandparent Silver or Gold Membership Award – These awards recognize PTAs/PTSAs that actively engage grandparents in support of their school communities.

- **Grandparent Silver Membership Award:** Awarded to PTAs/PTSAs that recruit **10 to 24** grandparents of students enrolled at the school.
- **Grandparent Gold Membership Award:** Awarded to PTAs/PTSAs that recruit **25 or more** grandparent members.

Grandparent involvement strengthens intergenerational support and helps foster a deeper sense of community and family engagement in the school.

Our Founders Care Award – This award recognizes the continued commitment and involvement of past PTA/PTSA leaders. Any local unit with **five (5) or more of its own past presidents** actively enrolled as **current members** is eligible for this award.

Spotlight on Men Award – This award recognizes local PTA/PTSA units that actively focus on engaging men—such as fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, mentors, and business partners—in the life of the school community. Units that **increase their male membership by 25 or more members** are eligible to receive this award.

Volunteer Award - This award honors PTA/PTSA units for outstanding volunteer engagement. It is presented to units that **report PTA volunteer hours equal to at least twice the number of their school's total student enrollment.** This recognition highlights the vital role volunteers play in supporting student success and strengthening school communities.

No applications are required for the following Membership Awards:

President's Membership Award – This award will be presented to one (1) Elementary or K-8 and one (1) Middle or High PTA/PTSA that earns Local Unit Achievement Award this year AND shows the highest percentage increase in individual memberships over the previous year. **(NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)**

Membership Plus Award – This award will be given to one (1) Elementary or K-8 and one (1) Middle or High PTA/PTSA that has shown the highest percentage increase in individual memberships over the previous year. This is the only membership award that will be given with a cash prize of twenty-five dollars (\$25). **(NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)**

Certificates will be awarded to those local PTAs that achieve any of the following:

1. An increase in membership by at least 25% over the previous year. **(NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)**
2. The highest percentage increase in membership over the previous year. One (1) Elementary or K-8 and one (1) Middle or High School PTA/PTSA will be awarded. **(NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)**
3. Membership of 1,000 or more members. **(NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)**
4. Has attained 100% membership for the last four years or more. **(NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)**

Special Membership Incentive Awards

Every year the Membership Committee offers Special Incentive Awards to reward increased local unit memberships. Information will be communicated to local units when published.

The National PTA Awards Program

National PTA also offers numerous award and grant programs for local units. Please visit www.pta.org for details about awards, applications, and deadlines.

Tips to Put Your PTA Awards Application on TOP!

1. **Appoint an Awards Chair**
Designate an Awards Chair on your board early in the year and ensure they have all necessary information about available awards, due dates, and application requirements.
2. **Read and Follow All Directions**
Carefully read instructions for each application—applications may be rejected if directions are not followed.
3. **Ensure Compliance**
Confirm that your unit is in good standing and meets all compliance requirements before submitting any award applications.
4. **Draft Answers Separately**
Write your responses in a separate document first. Review and edit for clarity before pasting into the official application form.

5. Complete All Fields

Fill out every section of the application completely. Contact the Florida PTA State Office or Awards Chair if you need clarification.

6. Follow Word and Page Limits

Adhere strictly to any specified word or page limits—going over may disqualify your application.

7. Use Your Full PTA Name

Provide your official local unit name as listed on your approved bylaws—no abbreviations.

8. Title Your Submissions Clearly

Give each award entry an appropriate and meaningful title.

9. Connect to PTA Mission

Describe how your program aligns with the PTA Mission and Purpose. Reference the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships where applicable.

10. Don't Leave Anything Out

Share everything your PTA has done. Even small activities may be significant and award-worthy.

11. Keep It Simple and Clear

Use concise, straightforward language to explain your activities and outcomes.

12. Submit Supporting Materials

Include relevant photos, flyers, media coverage, or other documentation to strengthen your application.

13. Include All Required Information

Make sure every requested item, signature, and attachment is included before submission.

14. Meet Every Deadline

Late applications will not be accepted. Mark important dates early and plan ahead.

15. Keep Year-Round Records

Begin tracking activities at the start of the year. A detailed record makes award applications easier and ensures you don't miss accomplishments.

16. Be Creative and Timely

Submit applications after events are completed and no later than the May 1st deadline!

Create Your Own PTA/PTSA Awards!

Your PTA/PTSA can develop unique awards to recognize outstanding individuals or groups within your school community. These awards are a meaningful way to:

- Increase awareness of PTA and its programs
- Show appreciation for volunteers, staff, students, and community partners
- Encourage engagement and boost membership participation

The best part? These awards don't have to involve a large expense. A simple certificate, small token of appreciation, or public acknowledgment can go a long way in showing gratitude and building community spirit.

To support this initiative, consider appointing an Awards Chair and forming an Awards Committee as part of your board. This team can help brainstorm categories, gather nominations, and coordinate recognition throughout the year.

Celebrate your community—because every thank you makes a difference!

