



WESTERN HEMISPHERE
WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF GIRL GUIDES
AND GIRL SCOUTS

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Guiding/Scouting Movement for Girls.

The Western Hemisphere Region is proud to present the Regional Awards program, which we have been promoting since 2022 to celebrate volunteers for their dedication, service and outstanding contributions. The nomination period for 2025 will be open **until April 30, 2025**.

Guidelines

1. Nominees must be active members of a Member Organization of WAGGGS. They should exemplify exemplary behavior and serve as role models. The service rendered must exceed the normal expectations of the position or role performed.
2. Both individual volunteers and teams of volunteers can be nominated, and a maximum of one nomination per category will be allowed for each Member Organization. This means that Member Organizations can only present one volunteer or team in each category.
3. Nominations must be proposed by:
 - A) A Member Organization (always with the endorsement of the International Commissioner or the President of the Member Organization if the nominee is the International Commissioner),
 - B) A group of MOs,
 - C) members of the Regional Committee
4. The Regional Awards Board will be responsible for reviewing nominations and selecting the awardees. This working group will be composed of current members of the Regional Committee and three additional review members (one from each sub-region of countries not represented in the Regional Committee and with previous experience in the Regional Committee or the World Board).
5. Any member of the Regional Awards Board must refrain from participating in deliberations or voting if the nominee is themselves, someone they have personally nominated, or someone belonging to their Member Organization.
6. The awards ceremony will take place at the closing of the Regional Conference. Member Organizations are encouraged to hold their own ceremonies to recognize award-winning volunteers later in their national celebrations.



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If you would like to nominate someone for any of the Western Hemisphere regional awards, please complete the [online form](#) by 30 April 2025.

Categories

Award	Award Purpose	Criteria to Guide Nomination
Sapphire Award	To recognize the work of an individual or team of volunteers who have carried out a project that has brought about fundamental, high-impact change in a community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have led/directed a community service project in which problems in one or more communities were addressed and in which the nominee or the team that developed the service contributed to improving the situation in the community. • The project was developed on behalf of the Member Organization and its impact was recognized by the society or the Community.
Growth Award	To recognize Member Organizations with 10% membership within 1 membership year.	No nomination needed; award based on WAGGGS Census figures.
Impact Award	To recognize an individual/team who has centered youth under 18 and/or young women ages 18-30.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered meaningful experience(s) to youth (members under age 18) and/or young women (ages 18-30) • Authentically incorporated youth and/or young women into the planning and design of events, activities, and/or initiatives • Promoted the inclusion (and subsequent successful participation) of youth members and/or young women in decision-making roles
Keeper of the Flame Award	To recognize an individual/team who has demonstrated exceptional Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting spirit and enthusiasm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrated the past and/or present of the Movement in a unique way • Upheld meaningful traditions or created new special traditions • Served as a source of spirit, enthusiasm, and energy for others • Sparked love for the Movement in others
Commissioner of the Year Award	To recognize outstanding Commissioners on the district/state/national/international level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a valid certificate (or similar) indicating qualification to lead adults in the District/State/National (or equivalent levels). • Be endorsed by your MO as an outstanding leader. • Influenced and/or helped another adult to be a District/State/National (or equivalent levels) leader. • Cooperated with local bodies, government organizations and/or Non-Government Organizations to organize community development



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		<p>projects suited to District/State/National (or equivalent levels).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have excelled in the function of International Commissioner for at least one term.
Western Hemisphere Excellence	To recognize outstanding contributions to the entire Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributed time and expertise to the significant development/promotion/advancement of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in the Region as a whole, ideally across our three subregions (North America, Central and South America, and the Caribbean), for a period of at least 3 years.
Young Leader Award	Awarded to a young woman in the Western Hemisphere Region who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, service, and a guiding spirit in making a positive impact on her community and inspiring others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a young woman between the age of 18 and 30 who has significantly contributed to her Member Organization, the Western Hemisphere or WAGGGS Global Programme. • Leadership & Initiative: She demonstrates outstanding leadership abilities in guiding activities, projects, and initiatives that empower young women. • Service & Impact: Volunteerism, advocacy, or social initiatives are among her ways of actively contributing to the betterment of her community. • Growth and Guiding Spirit: The principles of Girl Guiding are embodied by her perseverance, commitment to learning, and inspiration to others.

If you have any questions, please contact the Vice-Chair of the Regional Committee at emilia.cadario@waggs.org

Yours in Guiding and Girl Scouting,
Western Hemisphere Regional Committee