

2026 TOPS Awards Nomination Criteria and Questions Per Award Category

Overview:

All nominees will be judged by industry employees who work outside the state of North Carolina. Each award category specifies the required items and judging criteria, which may include:

- Submittal of the online nomination
- Confirmation of approval from the nominee's supervisor
- Submittal of the online supplemental nomination by the nominee (*select categories)

The Nominee must:

- Team Category
 - Have been in operation April 1, 2025 - Present
 - Have been a TAA Member April 1, 2025 - Present
 - Be a current TAA Member Company or Sole Proprietor in good standing
- Individual Category
 - Be a full-time employee of a current TAA Member Company in good standing
 - Have been employed with the job title in the nominated category during the period of April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 (hired *before* nomination period). They are not required to be at the same community or company.
 - Rookie Individual is an exemption (Office, Service, and Supplier). These individuals should have been hired *during* the nomination period, between April 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026

The Person Submitting the Nomination (Nominator) must:

- Be a full-time employee of a TAA Member in good standing
- Complete the nomination in full

Please note: You may not nominate yourself for an individual award. You can nominate your own community or team for a team award.

The nomination period is defined as April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

Deadlines:

- Nominators may submit nominations until Sunday, October 11, 2026 at 11:59 PM.
- Nominees may submit their Supplemental Nomination Forms until Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 11:59 PM.

Award Category: OUTSTANDING SUPPLIER TAA VOLUNTEER

Requirements:

- Completion of nomination
- Approval from nominee's supervisor
- Completion of supplemental nomination by nominee

Judged on:

- Nomination
- Supplemental nomination

Information needed for Nomination:

Nominator details (person submitting the nomination):

- Full name
- Title
- Apartment community or company
- Cell phone number
- Office phone number
- Email address
- Working relationship to Nominee
- Supervisor approval (Check box if you obtained approval from the nominee's supervisor to submit this nomination. Applicable to all award categories except for Outstanding Supplier Individual or Team)

Nominee details:

- Nominee's full name
- Apartment community or company
- Cell phone number
- Email address

Nomination Form:

1. Was this nominee an active member of a committee, task force, or the Board of Directors? (Select all that apply)
 - Board of Directors
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB) Committee
 - Education Committee
 - Government Affairs Committee
 - Housing Affordability Subcommittee
 - Membership Committee
 - PR & Community Outreach Committee
 - Special Events Committee
 - XCEL Committee

- Other _____
2. Did this nominee serve as a Committee or Sub-Committee Co-Chair?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. If yes, please list
 3. Please list any TAA Educational Seminars at which this nominee served as a Facilitator/Instructor.
 4. Please list any TAA events at which this nominee served as a Volunteer.
 5. Please list any other TAA-related volunteer efforts in which this nominee participated.
 6. Why do you feel this person deserves to be nominated for this award?
 7. Describe the impact this nominee has made through their volunteer efforts.
 8. How has this nominee encouraged other team members to serve as a TAA volunteer?
 9. Please note any additional information that you feel is important for the judges.

Supplemental Nomination Form:

1. What motivates you to volunteer?
2. Describe a favorite volunteer memory.
3. Describe the impact you have made through your volunteer efforts.
4. How have you encouraged other team members to serve as a TAA volunteer?
5. Please note any additional information that you feel is important for the judges.