



GOVERNOR’S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Proviso 63.10. “The Department of Public Safety shall establish an advisory committee to create an award nomination and recipient selection process for the Governors Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. The advisory committee annually shall select a state law enforcement officer of the year, a county law enforcement officer of the year, and a municipal law enforcement officer of the year. Each winner shall be recognized by the Office of the Governor and also shall receive an award of \$10,000 to be distributed by the department. These awards shall not be subject to South Carolina income taxes.”

I. Purpose

To publicly recognize a state law enforcement officer, a county law enforcement officer, and a municipal law enforcement officer who have personally demonstrated, during the course of the previous year, a distinct pattern of professionalism, dedication to duty, community service, valor, and/or innovation in a manner that sets them apart from the other dedicated law enforcement professionals in South Carolina.

II. Advisory Committee

The following individuals have been selected to serve on the Governor’s Law Enforcement of the Year Advisory Committee:

Director Robert G. Woods, IV
SC Department of Public Safety
Committee Chair

Sheriff J. Lee Foster
Newberry County Sheriff’s Office
SC Sheriffs’ Association
Committee Vice-Chair

Director Robert H. Boyles, Jr.
SC Department of Natural Resources

President John C. Blackmon
SC Fraternal Order of Police

Executive Director L. Eden Hendrick
SC Department of Juvenile Justice

Executive Director J.J. Jones
SC Law Enforcement Officers Association
SC Police Chiefs Association

Chief Mark A. Keel
SC Law Enforcement Division

Director Bryan Stirling
SC Department of Corrections

Chief Chito Walker
Charleston Police Department

III. Nomination Process

Only Class 1 officers qualify for these awards. Nominations will be based on the following categories: Professionalism, Dedication to Duty, Community Service, Valor, and Innovation on part of the nominee during the previous calendar year. Specific actions should be well documented through police reports, official letters of commendation, awards, video, and news articles. Please limit letters of commendation and/or recommendation to three per act.

The following law enforcement associations are allowed to submit up to three (3) nominations to the Advisory Committee for consideration:

- Palmetto State Law Enforcement Officers Association
- SC Fraternal Order of Police
- SC Law Enforcement Officers Association
- SC Police Chiefs Association
- SC Sheriffs' Association

The following law enforcement associations are allowed to submit one (1) nomination to the Advisory Committee for consideration:

- SC Probation and Parole Association
- SC Troopers Association
- SC Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers Association
- Society of Former (SLED) Agents

Nominations are to be submitted in the official format and must include:

- 1) Completion of the nomination form
- 2) A signed justification letter on letterhead from the nominating agency
- 3) Documentation supporting the nomination
- 4) Photograph of the officer

Note: The deadline for nomination submission will be determined by the representative law enforcement association, which in turn will forward the top finalist(s) to the Advisory Committee for its consideration.

IV. Selection Process

Nominations will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee and the selection of winners will be based on specific actions in the following areas during the selection year:

A) Professionalism

Consistent performance of duty while demonstrating competence, integrity, knowledge, conscientiousness, and respectfulness. The nominee's character is considered beyond reproach.

B) Community Service

- 1) Voluntary contribution of time and effort to improve the conditions in the community.
- 2) Voluntary contribution of time and effort to enhance the image of law enforcement in the community.

C) Valor

Conscious of danger, the nominee distinguishes himself/herself by the outstanding performance of an act of gallantry and bravery at imminent personal hazard to his or her life, above and beyond the call of duty.

D) Dedication to Duty

- 1) Excellent, unusual, or continued work performance and actions that are clearly above the normal call of duty, as recognized by superiors, fellow officers, or concerned citizens.
- 2) Commitment of time and effort to accomplish a task or mission that is above and beyond the normal requirements.
- 3) Commitment of time and effort in order to establish and/or maintain a cohesive work environment.

E) Innovation

- 1) Development and/or application of new techniques and/or procedures.
- 2) Development and/or enhanced application of technology, equipment, and/or resources.
- 3) Development and/or presentation of advanced training that enhances safety and service to the community and/or profession.

V. Awards Ceremony

The presentation of the awards will be conducted at a date, time, and location selected by the Governor.

The awards will include:

- A) A check for \$10,000.00
- B) A plaque of recognition
- C) A distinctive “Governor’s Law Enforcement Officer of the Year” pin that may be worn on the officer’s uniform or lapel.