



# Annual Awards

## *Nominations, Criteria, and Past Recipients*

### How to Make a Nomination

Any current NCTA member may nominate someone for an award. The nominees themselves need not be current members of the NCTA. Award nominations should include the following:

- Nominee’s Name, address, phone, and e-mail address and affiliation (chapter, affiliate, partner)
- Award for which nomination is being made
- A 1-2 page description of the nominee's service and/or your reason for the nomination.
- A picture of the nominee
- Your name (so we know who made the nomination), address, phone, and e-mail address

Nominations can be submitted several ways:

- By mail: NCTA, 229 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331
- By FAX: (616) 897-6605
- By email: [HQ@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:HQ@northcountrytrail.org) (Please use “Award Nomination” for your subject)
- By the website: <http://northcountrytrail.org/members/awards/>

### Our Awards: Criteria, and Past Recipients

#### VANGUARD AWARD

Theme:	Legislator or public servant		
Number per year:	up to 2		
Criteria:	A legislator or other public official whose leadership, actions and advocacy have substantially benefited the North Country Trail.		
Presentation:	Preferably at a public event by an official of the NCTA		
Past Recipients:	2000	Senator Herb Kohl	Representative David Obey
	2001	Senator Carl Levin	Representative Ralph Regula
	2002	Representative Vern Ehlers	
	2003	Steve Peterson	
	2004	Representative Phil English	
	2005	Gaylord Nelson	
	2006	Robert Hoffman	Ray Vlasak
	2007	MN DNR	Representative Oberstar
	2008		
	2009	Senator Amy Kobuchar	Hank Ludtke
	2010	Steve Bade	Tom Schackman & Mitch Bouchonville
	2011	no nominations received	

## FRIEND OF THE TRAIL AWARD

Theme: Employee of a partner agency or organization  
Number per year: Up to 2  
Criteria: An employee of a unit of government or an organization whose leadership, accommodation and active collaboration have substantially benefited the North Country Trail.  
Presentation: at the NCTA Annual Conference  
Past Recipients

2004	Ramona Venegas	Scott Tichy	
2005	Dorian Grilley	Mark Carlstrom	
2006	Wally Chappel	Ron Kantola	
2007	Kent Goeckermann	Harvey Tjader	
2008	Peter Frank	Jim Sessions	US Forest Service in Allegheny National Forest
2009	Kevin Stankiewicz	John Kwapinski	
2010	Barbara Boyle	Karen Larsen	
2011	Bob Christensen	Scott Peterson	

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Theme: Significant commitment and accomplishments over ten or more years  
Number per year: 1  
Criteria: An individual, in recognition of more than a decade of true dedication, exceptional service and outstanding contributions toward the dream of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Service may be performed in a voluntary or paid capacity.  
Presentation: At the Annual Conference  
Past Recipients:

1997	Tom Gilbert
1998	Derek Blount
1999	Emily Gregor
2000	Wes Boyd
2001	Howard Beye
2002	Rod MacRae
2003	Jim Sprague
2004	Gene Elzinga
2005	Gaylord Yost
2006	Dave Cornell
2007	John Leinen
2008	Bill Menke
2009	Al Larmann
2010	Ed Sidote
2011	Arlen Matson

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Theme: Significant commitment and accomplishments over three or more years  
Number per year: 1-3  
Criteria: An individual, in recognition of exceptional volunteer service in furthering the goals of the NCTA, and outstanding contributions toward the dream of the North Country National

Scenic Trail. Not more than one of these awards may be granted each year to an individual who is not a member of the NCTA or an Affiliate.

Presentation:	At the Annual Conference			
Past Recipients:	1988	Wallace Doan		
	1989	Barbara A. Smith	John G. Hipps	
	1990	Ken Gackler	Ginny Wunsch	
	1991	Derek Blount	Tom Reimers	
	1992	Art Holland	Vince Smith	
	1993	Linda Mieke		
	1994	Rod MacRae	Gene Elzinga	
	1995	Baird Stewart		
	1996	Merrill C. Gilfillan	Wes Boyd	
	1997	Arden Johnson	Jim Sprague	Gaylord Yost
	1998	Howard Beyé	Pat Allen	
	1999	Bob Tait	Dave Cornell	
	2000	Martha Jones	Doug Welker	
	2001	John Leinen	Joan Young	
	2002	Werner Veit		
	2003	Al Larmann	Mary Kunzler Larmann	
	2004	Irene Szabo	Bill Menke	Arlen Matson
	2005	Bill Coffin	Jim Burow	Pat Leinen
	2006	Garry Dill	Dick Lightcap	Ron Rice
	2007	Alicia Hoffarth	Bob Norlin	
	2008	Bobby Koepplin	Rick Adamson	Herb and Suzie Hulls
	2009	Tim Calloway	Tana Turonie	Mary Coffin
	2010	Kathy Eisele	Stan Kujawa	Lynne Nason
	2011	Pat & Mary Hayes	Ed Solstad	Marty Swank

## TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Theme:	Corporation or Foundation contributor
Number per year:	1
Criteria:	A business or foundation for far-sighted vision and support, demonstrated by significant contribution(s) to the NCT or the NCTA.
Presentation:	Preferably at a public event by an official of the NCTA
Past Recipients:	2000 R.E.I.
	2001 Haworth, Inc.
	2002 No nominees received
	2003 No nominees received
	2004 No nominees received
	2005 Lowell Area Community Foundation
	2006 Cemex, Inc
	2007 Superior Publishing Corporation
	2008 Scheel Sports
	2009 Chuck McCready
	2010 Itasca County Trails Task Force & Blandin Foundation
	2011 Midwest Mountaineering

## TRAIL BUILDER OF THE YEAR

Theme: Trail or facilities construction  
Number per year: Up to 3  
Criteria: A volunteer, whose work in NCT construction, planning, or negotiations have resulted in the development of outstanding new trail or facilities over the past year.  
Presentation: Announced at NCTA Annual Conference  
Past Recipients: 2001 Al Larmann and Mary Kunzler-Larmann (as a team)  
2002 Ron Rice  
2003 Paul Haan  
2004 Richard Naperala  
2005 Carter Hedeem  
2006 Rick Adamson  
2007 Lynda Rummel  
2008 Scott Bowman  
2009 Charlie Krammin  
2010 Daryl Heise  
2011 Chris Hoffarth Bruce Johnson Keith Klos

## TRAIL MAINTAINER OF THE YEAR

Theme: Trail or facilities maintenance  
Number per year: Up to 3  
Criteria: A volunteer, who has demonstrated exceptional dedication or achievements over the past year in maintaining or restoring pre-existing North Country Trail segment(s).  
Presentation: Announced at NCTA Annual Conference  
Past Recipients: 2001 Rolf Swanson  
2002 Al Mitton  
2003 Tom Learmont  
2004 Eric Doyle  
2005 Richard Krieger  
2006 Keith Klos  
2007 Mikie Kuhman  
2008 Jerry Werner  
2009 Ed Chappel  
2010 Cliff Stammer  
2011 Clyde Anderson Steve Kinne John Pearson

## LEADERSHIP AWARD

Theme: Leadership  
Number per year: 1  
Criteria: A volunteer, who has demonstrated exceptional leadership leading to significant local achievements or highly successful events.  
Presentation: Announced at NCTA Annual Conference  
Past Recipients: 2001 Peter Nordgren  
2002 No nominees received  
2003 Gail Blakeley  
2004 Jerry Trout  
2005 Peggy Jones  
2006 Greg Wisniewski  
2007 John Heiam

2008	Marty Swank
2009	Ray Vlasak
2010	Annette Brzezicki
2011	Lee Fairbanks

## **OUTREACH AWARD**

Theme:	Building support and partnerships	
Number per year:	1	
Criteria:	A volunteer, whose efforts to build coalitions, partnerships or other forms of local support have contributed significantly to the ongoing success of the North Country Trail.	
Presentation:	Announced at NCTA Annual Conference	
Past Recipients:	2001	Paula Wilbur
	2002	Richard Lutz
	2003	Dave Cornell
	2004	Al Larmann
	2005	Andrew Skurka
	2006	Bob McCafferty
	2007	Kay Kujawa
	2008	Pat Monahan
	2009	Tom Garnett
	2010	Brian Pavak
	2011	John Stehle

## **COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Theme:	Communications or Promotion	
Number per year:	1	
Criteria:	A volunteer, for exemplary work in promoting the North Country Trail or the NCTA through a communications medium (newsletter, website, brochure, etc.) or personal contacts.	
Presentation:	Announced at NCTA Annual Conference	
Past Recipients:	2001	Werner Veit
	2002	Angela Addington
	2003	No nominees received
	2004	Aaron and Sharon Phipps
	2005	Ginny Ruppe
	2006	Joan Young
	2007	Mick Hawkins
	2008	Jo Taylor
	2009	Lorana Jinkerson
	2010	Irene Szabo
	2011	Eileen Fairbrother

## **RISING STAR AWARD**

Theme: Youth  
Number per year: 1  
Criteria: A volunteer between the ages of 8 and 18, who has made significant contributions to the North Country Trail, and whose dedication to the NCT and the NCTA sets an example to other youths and shows exceptional promise.  
Presentation: Announced at NCTA Annual Conference  
Past Recipients: 2001 Ben Mourer  
2002 No nominees received  
2003 Gillian Kreft  
2004 No nominees received  
2005 Stratton Lucas  
2006 None  
2007 None  
2008 Lukas Seltzer  
2009 Joseph Bruenjes  
2010 Jessie Rideaux-Crenshaw  
2011 Adam Larson

## **SWEEP AWARD**

Theme: Working behind the scenes  
Number presented: 1 - 3  
Criteria: A volunteer, for tireless work and achievements behind the scenes on behalf of the North Country Trail or the NCTA.  
Presentation: Announced at NCTA Annual Conference  
Past Recipients: 2001 Brooks Kindel  
2002 Len and JoAnne Baron  
2003 Harlan Liljequist  
2004 Atley Oswald  
2005 Char Chandler  
2006 Peter Edmunds  
2007 Deb Kreiger  
2008 Ed Ronkowski Becky Heise Peter Wybron  
2009 Stacy Scheel Harvey Johnson Florence Hedeem  
2010 Barb Pavek Mike Trieschmann  
2011 Marge Forslin Karen Klos Don Penlt

## **BLUE BLAZES BENEFACTOR AWARD**

Theme Individual or household benefactor  
Number per year: 1  
Nominees sought from: Development Committee, NCTA staff  
Criteria: An individual or household demonstrating vision and generosity through significant monetary or in-kind contribution(s) to the NCT or the NCTA.  
Presentation: Announced at NCTA Annual Conference  
Past Recipients: 2004 Werner and Marianne Veit  
2005 Byron and Margaret Hutchins  
2006 None

2007 Walter Srogi  
2008 Harmon Strong  
2009 Peggy McRae  
2010 Jim Weiske  
2011 Garry Dill

## **OUTSTANDING PRIVATE LANDOWNER AWARD**

Theme Outstanding landowner  
Number per year: 1  
Criteria: A private landowner whose leadership, accommodation and active collaboration have substantially benefited the North Country Trail.  
Presentation: Announced at NCTA Annual Conference  
Past Recipients: 2011 Randy Lehman

## **CHAPTER/AFFILIATE HONOR AWARD**

Theme Outstanding Chapter/Affiliate/Partner Volunteer  
Number presented: 1 per Chapter/Affiliate / Partner  
Nominees sought from: Chapter leaders, NCTA members  
Criteria: An individual or household who demonstrates loyalty, commitment and hard work annually to the local organization's chosen activities  
Presentation: Announced and presented at Chapter/Affiliate/Partner level event  
Note: Not selected until after the Annual Conference