

NCTA Award Descriptions

Chapter Honor Award

A Chapter or Affiliate volunteer who has demonstrated outstanding loyalty, commitment and hard work in the Chapter's chosen activities that have contributed in a major way to the Chapter's success. [Each Chapter and Affiliate may select one recipient (or if a married couple, two names) each year, except that if a Chapter or Affiliate manages more than 200 miles of the NCNST, they shall be entitled to one Honor Award recipient per 100 miles they maintain. The award is guaranteed. One extra award will be allowed if your Chapter or Affiliate did not submit any names in the previous year.]

Thomas L. Gilbert Lifetime Achievement

An individual, in recognition of 15+ years of true dedication, exceptional service and outstanding contributions toward the dream of the North Country Trail, or the success and growth of the NCTA, not just local service. Service may be performed in a voluntary or paid capacity. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Distinguished Service

An individual, in recognition of 8 years or more of exceptional volunteer service in furthering the goals of the NCTA, and outstanding contributions toward the dream of the North Country 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. (Up to 5 awards/year)

Leadership

A volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional leadership over a 3-year period or more leading to significant local achievements or highly successful events. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Outreach

A volunteer whose efforts to build coalitions, partnerships or other forms of local support over a 3-year period or more have contributed significantly to the ongoing success of the Trail. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Communicator

A volunteer, for exemplary work in promoting the Trail or the NCTA through a communications medium (newsletter, web site, brochure, etc.) or personal contacts over a 3-year period or more. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Trail Protector

A volunteer working to protect the Trail by gaining permission to build Trail, and additionally, gaining easements to protect our Trail, over a 3-year period or more. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Sweep

A volunteer, for tireless work and achievements behind the scenes on behalf of the Trail or the NCTA over a 3-year period or more. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Boots on the Trail

A volunteer who regularly leads hikes that are well advertised and promoted to the public (non-NCTA members) as a way of building NCTA membership and support for the Trail. A nominee would typically lead more than one hike per year, and make them interesting by sharing their knowledge with groups or being helpful to new hikers, or organize and lead a whole series of hikes like cross-county or even cross-state events, over a 3-year period or more. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Trail Builder

A volunteer whose work in trail planning, landowner negotiations, layout and design, and/or construction, have resulted in the development of outstanding new Trail or facilities over a 3-year period or more. (Up to 5 awards/year)

Trail Maintainer

A volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional dedication or achievements over a 3-year period or more in maintaining or restoring preexisting Trail segment(s). (Up to 5 awards/year)

Rising Star

An NCTA member between the ages of 8 and 25 (or a youth group) who has made significant contributions to the Trail and seems likely to continue, and whose dedication to the Trail and the NCTA sets an example to other youths and shows exceptional promise. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Blue Blazes Benefactor

An individual or household demonstrating vision and generosity through significant monetary or in-kind contribution(s) to the North Country Trail or the NCTA. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Vanguard

A legislator or other high-level public official whose leadership, actions and advocacy have substantially benefited the North Country Trail over a Chapter/Affiliate/Partner's area or larger, not just a short segment. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Friend of the Trail

A public employee, unit of government, or member of an organization whose leadership, accommodations and active collaboration have substantially benefited the North Country Trail or the NCTA, not working solely in the capacity of an NCTA member. (Up to 5 awards/year)

Trailblazer

A business or foundation for far-sighted vision and support, demonstrated by significant contributions to the Trail or the NCTA. (Up to 3 awards/year)

Outstanding Private Landowner

A private landowner whose leadership, accommodation and active collaboration have substantially benefited the North Country Trail. (Up to 3 awards/year)