



Golden Acorn Award Selection Criteria

Purpose of the Golden Acorn Award

The TreesSC Golden Acorn Award is designed to honor individuals and organizations who demonstrate outstanding commitment to advancing urban forestry. This recognition highlights those whose actions reflect consistent dedication and leadership in the stewardship of urban trees and green spaces.

Nominations will be evaluated based on this criteria.

Commitment to Urban Forestry

Nominees should be assessed for their demonstrated commitment to the promotion, maintenance, and improvement of urban forests. Consider the consistency of their efforts, the longevity of their involvement, and their advocacy for tree health in urban environments.

Innovation in Tree Care and Management

Evaluate candidates based on their creativity and originality in adopting new practices, technologies, or sustainable management plans. Innovations that advance the discipline of urban forestry are essential qualities to seek in nominees.

Community Engagement and Education

Nominees should be recognized for their efforts to engage and educate the community. Look for activities such as public awareness initiatives, volunteer programs, workshops, and outreach events that foster a culture of stewardship and involvement within the local community.

Environmental Impact

Assess the tangible outcomes of the nominee's work, including increased tree canopy coverage, enhanced biodiversity, creation of wildlife habitats, reduction of pollution, and contributions to climate resilience. Measurable improvements in these areas are vital indicators of impact.

Leadership and Advocacy

Consider the nominee's leadership skills and advocacy efforts. Key factors include their ability to inspire and mobilize others, participation in policy-making processes, mentorship, and involvement in coalition-building around tree-related issues.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Strong collaborations and partnerships illustrate the nominee's ability to develop meaningful relationships with organizations and stakeholders. Identify impactful joint ventures and cross-sector initiatives that have contributed to the advancement of urban forestry.

Sustainability Practices

Examine how the nominee integrates sustainability into their work. Consider their approach to long-term planning, resource efficiency, and conservation of soil and water, ensuring that their efforts provide lasting benefits for future generations.

Recognition and Influence

Take into account the nominee's recognition and broader influence. Review formal awards, media coverage, endorsements, and their capacity to serve as a role model for others in the field. Influence that extends beyond immediate projects is a valuable consideration.

Not all categories are required to be represented when nominating an individual for the Golden Acorn Award.

TREES SC

GOLDEN ACORN AWARDS PROGRAM



AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Entry Deadline: Mail Postmarked by July 31, 2026

Mail completed entry to: Trees SC PO Box155, Blacksburg, SC

E-Mail (in pdf) by 5:00 pm on July31, 2026 to sarah@treessc.org

For more information, contact Sarah Morris at (864) 839-6577 or sarah@treessc.org

Date: _____

Nominated Person or Program: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

Category: (please check one)

Distinguished Service Award – Recognizes an individual for his or her outstanding contribution to urban forestry. Nominees can include foresters, arborists, growers, educators, community leaders, elected officials, exceptional volunteers, concerned citizens, etc.

Outstanding Urban Forestry Program – Recognizes a local government or organization providing exemplary leadership and vision to a comprehensive urban forestry program. Activities can include beautification, fundraising, partnerships, tree planting or preservation, scheduled tree maintenance, tree inventories, public education and memorial tree planting programs.

Does the person or organization know that they are being nominated? Yes No

Please attach a narrative description (500 words or less) of why this person or program is being nominated. Newspaper articles, other awards, stories, brochures, photos and/or plans may be attached. All supplemental information becomes the property of SCUCFC and may be used by the Council in publications and promotional materials.

Person submitting nomination: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____