



Cornell University

Office of the Dean of
Students

Student Activities Office

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General descriptions and criteria for SOAR awards

General Criteria for All Awards

All award nominees must meet the following general criteria to be considered:

- Individuals and organizations must be in good standing with Cornell University and the Student Activities Office
- Faculty/Staff advisors must be current full time employees or designated advisors (university organizations only) at Cornell University's Ithaca campus
- Organizations must be completely registered, and in good standing with Cornell University and the Student Activities Office
- Programs and events must have taken place between April 1, 2007 and March 5, 2008. Events and programs that take place after March 5, 2008 may be considered for the 2009 Awards.

All awards will be selected by committees made up of faculty and staff members. Award recipients will be announced at the award ceremony ONLY. All nominees will be invited to the ceremony.

There may be more than one (1) recipient for each award.

Distinguished Leadership Award

The Distinguished Leadership Award is designed to recognize an organization member/volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional leadership ability and capabilities to her/his group or organization. The recipient must have been involved with at least one organization and held a leadership position for at least one semester.

Criteria includes:

- Ability to motivate peers
- Ability to foster teamwork
- Exceptional communication skills
- Length of service to organization(s)
- Ability to organize a group to meet a goal
- Ability to take initiative
- Ability to facilitate decision making

Class of 1963 Award

The Class of 1963 has chosen to endow an award for the student organization or program house that is most successful in using formal and/or informal learning to promote understanding, respect, and amicable relations among students of different races and cultures.

Three criteria will be used to select this award:

1. The extent to which the project enhances the ability of students to work with, live with, and learn from people from a wide range of backgrounds, beliefs, and cultural perspectives.
2. The extent to which the project is sustainable and/ or could be replicated.
3. The extent to which a diverse group of students participates in the project.

Outstanding Student Employee Award

The Outstanding Student Employee Award is designed to recognize an Office of the Dean of Students employee who has demonstrated outstanding performance and dedication to their work area. The student must be a second semester employee in good standing, who's performance has been documented through commendation, Dottie Dollars, and positive performance appraisals.

Criteria to be considered will include the following:

- Customer service skills
- Willingness to cover problem shifts
- Quantity of Dottie Dollars and commendations
- Length of service in Willard Straight Hall
- Initiative/ perform extra duties
- Creative problem solving

Daniel F. Mahaney Scholarship

The Mahaney Scholarship Fund was established in 1983 as a memorial to Daniel F. Mahaney, who was very active in the Department of Unions and Activities as a volunteer, board member, chair, and a student employee from 1975 - 1980. Candidates should show exemplary performance as a volunteer leader and as a student employee within the Office of the Dean of Students.

- The scholarship may be awarded to more than one student.
- The Scholarship Award is a minimum of \$500.
- The recipient(s) must be current undergraduate students at Cornell.

New Volunteer Award

The New Volunteer Award is designed to recognize a student for their outstanding effort and involvement in a registered student organization. The honoree need not be a student new to Cornell, however, the nominee must have one or two semesters involvement.

Criteria to be considered will include:

- Enthusiasm
- Potential for future leadership
- Innovative contributions to the organization
- Consistently exceeds expectations
- Active participation in group activities

Distinguished Student Volunteer Award

The Distinguished Student Volunteer Award is designed to recognize an outstanding volunteer in a registered student organization who has shown consistent exemplary service to his or her group or organization. This student should consistently perform beyond standard expectations and must have been involved for at least three semesters in a student organization.

Criteria includes:

- Enthusiasm/attitude
- Teamwork/team player
- Length of service to their organization
- Dedication/commitment to the group
- Pride in organization
- Volunteer service extends beyond their organization

Program Showcase Awards

The Program Showcase Awards are designed to recognize exceptional programs or services sponsored by a registered student organization, program house, or service area.

Recognition will be given for outstanding programs or services in the area of:

1. Cultural Programming
2. Educational Programming
3. Social Programming
4. Entertainment Programming
5. Service Programming

Outstanding Publicity Campaign Award

The Outstanding Publicity Campaign Award is designed to recognize an exemplary publicity campaign relative to a program, event, series, or service offered by a registered student organization. The publicity campaign must have been held during the current (2003-2004) academic year.

Criteria to be considered will include:

- Creativity
- Copy/text quality
- Use of different medium (i.e.: posters, chalking, 1/4 cards, PowerPoint, sun ads, etc.)
- Artistic quality
- Layout and design

Outstanding Activist Award

The Outstanding Activist Award will be presented to the club and/or individual that best exemplifies activism within the Cornell and surrounding community.

Outstanding Event That Celebrates Campus Diversity

The award for Outstanding Event That Celebrates Campus Diversity will be presented to a registered student organization or program house that sponsored an event that best focuses on campus diversity. Special consideration will be given to those groups which subscribe to Cornell's diversity statement, "Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds."

Outstanding Contribution by a First Year Student

The award for Outstanding Contribution by a First Year Student will be presented to a first year student who has demonstrated outstanding participation in a registered student organization.

Criteria includes:

- Potential for advancement to a leadership position
- Overall attitude
- Ability to balance academics and cocurricular activities
- Ability to work effectively with other students
- Willingness to take on projects
- Ability to take initiative
- Ability to facilitate decision making

Edgar A. Whiting Award

In 1970, a special award was established upon the occasion of Edgar Whiting's retirement after forty years of service on the staff of Willard Straight Hall, the last fifteen as director.

Its purpose is to honor an individual who has demonstrated the dedication and effort that Mr. Whiting has so selflessly made on behalf of the Cornell community. Personal character is a criterion, for he has been an outstanding example of sincerity and integrity for the many students with whom he has worked.

The recipient of this award must be a member of the staff or student organization within the Office of the Dean of Students.

Outstanding Advisor Award

The Outstanding Advisor Award will be presented to the faculty or staff advisor who demonstrates outstanding participation with a registered student organization. The award will be presented to advisors of both Independent and University organizations.

Criteria includes:

- Ability to motivate students
- Ability to foster teamwork
- Exceptional communication skills
- Length of service to organization(s)
- Ability to organize a group to meet a goal
- Ability to take initiative when necessary
- Ability to facilitate decision making

Outstanding Sports Club Award

The Outstanding Sports Club Award will be presented to the registered student organization sports club that has proven successful by the following criteria:

- Membership
- Ability to foster teamwork
- Win-Loss record
- Strength of schedule
- Ability to organize a group to meet a goal

For more information about the Student Organizations Awards and Recognition, contact the Student Activities Office at 255-4169, or email SOAR@cornell.edu.