

2024-2025 UNA-USA Awards Outline and Timeline

Overview

This document outlines the 2025 UNA-USA Awards program, including the timeline and awards for consideration. Due to the bifurcation of the UNA-USA Advocacy Summit from the Leadership Summit—which is traditionally when the awards have been presented—the eligibility timeframe for a particular award is June 2024-July 2025. The 2024-2025 Awards will be presented at the UNA-USA Leadership Summit held in St. Louis, Missouri from November 14-16, 2025.

Timeline

The process and timeline for 2025 UNA-USA Awards is outlined below:

- **July 22, 2025** - Nomination forms open online and on UNA Forum
- **August 25, 2025** – Deadline for all nominations forms
- **September 5, 2025** – Deadline for appropriate National Council committees to review applications and agree on finalists
- **September 10, 2025** – Final nominees are then shared with Executive Committee for review and approval
- **September 12, 2025** – Final nominees are notified

Outline

Below are awards for the 2025 cycle, which will include all activities and examples from June 2024 – August 2025. The outline includes the purpose of the award and indicates the intended behavior for which the award is meant to reward or acknowledge.

Three committees of the National Council will receive the nominations and then submit their final candidate to the Executive Committee of the National Council for approval.

Volunteer of the Year Award

- **Purpose:** Recognize outstanding volunteer for supporting the UNA-USA mission
- **Behavior:** Volunteer has helped to increase membership, participation, and/or awareness of United Nations in their community and/or on a national level
- **Recipient:** Individual member
- **Committee:** UNA-USA national office staff

Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Purpose:** Recognize a longtime volunteer leader for support of UNA

- **Behavior:** Encourage volunteer leaders to continue to develop chapter and to lead; have served more than 10+ years as a Chapter Leader and as a National Council member
- **Recipient:** Individual volunteer leader
- **Committee:** Leadership Development Committee + Executive Committee + Executive Director

High School Campus Chapter of Excellence Award

- **Purpose:** Recognize high-performing High School Campus Chapter
- **Behavior:** Positive membership engagement through educational initiatives and ensure active and committed leadership
- **Recipient:** High School Campus Chapter
- **Committee:** Membership Development Committee + Sr. Associate, Youth Engagement

Collegiate Campus Chapter of Excellence Award

- **Purpose:** Recognize high-performing Collegiate Campus Chapter
- **Behavior:** Increase membership growth through compelling initiatives; ensure active and committed leadership;
- **Recipient:** Collegiate or University Campus Chapter
- **Committee:** Membership Development Committee + Sr. Associate, Youth Engagement

Community Chapter of Excellence Award

- **Purpose:** Recognize high-performing Community Chapter
- **Behavior:** Positive membership growth, held UN Day program (2024), conducted advocacy outreach including in-district meeting or participated in the 2024 UNA-USA Leadership Summit, developed and/or participated in a compelling program/initiative/campaign, ensure active and committed leadership
- **Recipient:** Community Chapter
- **Committee:** Membership Development Committee + Sr. Associate, Community Engagement

UNA-USA Advocate of the Year Award

- **Purpose:** Recognize individual who supports UNA advocacy initiatives
- **Behavior:** Encourage members to increase advocacy touchpoints and engagements to support US-UN relationship and to advocate for full US funding of the UN
- **Recipient:** Individual member
- **Committee:** Advocacy Committee + Grassroots Advocacy Manager + Executive Director

UNA-USA Young Leader of the Year Award

- **Purpose:** Recognize a Young Professional member for helping to advance the work of UNA-USA
- **Behavior:** Encourage young people to register as a Young Professional and to engage in outward efforts to support UNA/UN
- **Recipient:** Young Professional
- **Committee:** Youth Affinity Group Leadership + Previous Youth Observer + + Sr. Associate, Youth Engagement

Links to Nomination Forms:

Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award - <https://forms.gle/tM8VfJQqYYgMQ7pu6>

Community Chapter of Excellence Award - <https://forms.gle/g85KYzvAbDdKLYm9>

Collegiate Campus Chapter of Excellence Award - <https://forms.gle/sx28ipRRTnCAtBUL9>

High School Campus Chapter of Excellence Award - <https://forms.gle/fwZxoDJeBA2smgqh9>

Advocate of the Year Award - <https://forms.gle/oKQE5tN3DDeGXmkA8>

Young Leader of the Year Award - <https://forms.gle/yLV2GXr6jVXkDWtD6>

Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award

Description: The Arnold Goodman Award is presented by the UNA-USA National Council to recognize and encourage outstanding longtime volunteer leadership among the chapters and divisions of UNA-USA. The Award is a tribute to the late Arnold Goodman of Wisconsin who, by his example and service as chair of the then Council of Chapter and Division Presidents and in other capacities, set a standard of excellence and commitment to the work of UNA-USA.

Judging Criteria:

The Nominee must satisfy the following criteria to be considered for the Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award.

1. The individual is a current UNA-USA member.
2. The individual has inspired and developed leadership in others within the UNA-USA network.
3. The individual has shown a record of effective volunteer leadership in Chapter and/or Division activities over many years.
 - Volunteer leadership at the national level of UNA-USA may be considered as an additional factor but is not a necessary factor.
 - Individuals who combine volunteer and paid staff experience within UNA-USA may be nominated, but only volunteer leadership will be considered.
 - Professional or academic experiences, involvement with other organizations, or other factors may be mentioned but will not be considered factors when selecting the award.
4. **A current member of the UNA-USA National Council may NOT be nominated or selected for the Goodman Award.**

UNA-USA High School Campus Chapter of Excellence Award

Description: The United Nations Association of the United States of America will be presenting the High School Campus Chapter Excellence Award to honor an outstanding UNA-USA High School campus chapter that has actively participated in chapter projects and initiatives identified with the goals of UNA-USA. The Award recognizes a campus chapter that exemplifies excellence and commitment in service, education, and leadership.

Eligibility:

The Nominee must satisfy the following criteria to be considered for the High School Campus Chapter of Excellence Award.

1. The chapter has completed and submitted the prior year's annual report to UNA-USA.
2. The chapter is active and recognized as a UNA-USA chapter in good standing.
3. The chapter has a confirmed Faculty Advisor.
4. Chapter sends a representative to participate in monthly National Leadership Calls.
5. All mandatory leadership roles (President, Membership Lead, Advocacy Lead,) are filled by registered UNA-USA members.
6. The chapter has increased membership engagement and community outreach via at least six events in the past year. This must include a program to recognize UN Day (October 24), along with other fundraisers, public events, or issue-based discussions about the United Nations and/or the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNA-USA Collegiate Campus Chapter of Excellence Award

Description: The United Nations Association of the United States of America will be presenting the Collegiate Campus Chapter Excellence Award to honor an outstanding UNA-USA collegiate campus chapter that has actively participated in chapter projects and initiatives identified with the goals of UNA-USA. The Award recognizes a campus chapter that exemplifies excellence and commitment in service, education, and leadership.

Eligibility:

The Nominee must satisfy the following criteria to be considered for the Collegiate Campus Chapter of Excellence Award.

1. The chapter has completed and submitted the prior year's annual report to UNA-USA.
2. The chapter is active and recognized as a UNA-USA chapter in good standing.
3. The chapter has a confirmed Faculty Advisor.
4. Chapter sends a representative to participate in monthly National Leadership Calls.
5. All mandatory leadership roles (President, Membership Lead, Advocacy Leady) are filled by registered UNA-USA members.
6. The chapter has increased membership engagement and community outreach via at least six events in the past year. This must include a program to recognize UN Day (October 24), along with other fundraisers, public events, or issue-based discussions about the United Nations and/or the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. The chapter should have coordinated and/or participated in at least one advocacy-related initiative, such as meeting with a Congressional office in-district or on Capitol Hill or mobilized members to contact their Members of Congress in relation to US support of the United Nations.
8. The chapter is visible and active on social media through various platforms in order to increase engagement and education about the US and the UN.
9. The chapter demonstrates a record of effective performance in community service by completing 1-2 service projects during the year.

UNA-USA Community Chapter of Excellence Award

Description: The United Nations Association of the United States of America will be presenting the Community Chapter Excellence Award to honor an outstanding UNA-USA community chapter that has actively participated in community projects and initiatives identified with the goals of UNA-USA. The Award recognizes a community chapter that exemplifies excellence and commitment in service, education, and leadership.

Eligibility:

1. The chapter has completed and submitted the prior year's annual report to UNA-USA.
2. The chapter is a recognized UNA-USA chapter and is not on provisional status.
3. All mandatory leadership roles (President, Membership Lead, Advocacy Lead, Treasurer, and Secretary) are filled by registered UNA-USA members.
4. Chapter sends a representative to participate in monthly National Leadership calls.
5. The chapter is visible and active on social media through various platforms in order to increase engagement and education about the US and the UN.
6. Held at least five events in the past year. This could include a fundraiser, public event, or issue-based discussion, but among the five should be:
 - a. a. A UN Day event or activity on/ around October 24.
 - b. b. At least one other international UN celebration day, such as International Women's Day (March 8th), Human Rights Day (December 10th), etc.
7. The chapter should have coordinated and/or participated in at least one advocacy-related initiative, such as meeting with a Congressional office in-district or on Capitol Hill or mobilized members to contact their Members of Congress in relation to US support of the United Nations.
8. The chapter demonstrates a record of effective performance in the areas of community service by completing 1-2 service projects during the year.

UNA-USA Advocate of the Year Award

Description: The Advocate of the Year Award is presented by the UNA-USA Advocacy Committee to honor an individual who has demonstrated a commitment and excellence in advocating for support of the United Nations on both the State and National level.

Eligibility:

The Nominee must satisfy the following criteria in order to be considered for the Advocate of the Year Award.

1. The individual is a recognized UNA-USA member in good standing for more than one year.
2. Has implemented at least three advocacy-related activities within the past year. (This could include a meeting with members of Congress or congressional staff members in-district or in-state or on Capitol Hill, appearances by elected officials in a chapter activity (e.g. as a speaker), advocacy-oriented public event or campaign about one or several UNA advocacy priorities, or issue-based discussion including perhaps with advocacy allies, OpEd or social media campaigns.)
3. Participated in the 2024 and/or 2025 UNA-USA Advocacy Summit.
4. Has demonstrated creativity, perseverance, or some impact in advocating for the UN and telling the story of the UN's work in their community. (This might include, implementing activities in collaboration with non-UNA partners that significantly augmented the impact or outreach regarding a UNA advocacy priority; or mounting an effective campaign that countered a local or state legislative or regulatory initiative that would conflict with UN principles or UNA advocacy priorities.)

UNA-USA Young Leader of the Year Award

Description: UNA-USA Young Leader of the Year Award recognizes youth (including GenUN members) and young professionals whose accomplishments demonstrate personal initiative and commitment to the United Nations and UNA-USA. Past Awardees have been recognized because of their volunteer activities, workplace initiatives, and social endeavors. They have inspired others to support the United Nations and create meaningful change.

Judging Criteria:

The Nominee must satisfy the following criteria to be considered for the Advocate of the Year Award.

1. The individual has been a registered UNA-USA member in good standing for 1+ year.
2. The individual is under age 30.
3. Actively involved in their local UNA-USA chapter or Division.
4. Exhibits strong communication skills in articulating the importance of the UN and UNA-USA's mission to diverse audiences.
5. Proven leadership in mobilizing youth within UNA-USA through innovative programming or advocacy efforts (Volunteer leadership at the national level of UNA-USA may be considered as additional support but is not a necessary factor. Individuals who combine volunteer and paid staff experience within UNA-USA may be nominated, but only volunteer leadership will be considered.
6. Professional or academic experiences, involvement with other organizations, or other similar achievements may be mentioned but will not be considered factors when selecting the award.
7. Has made a positive impact in their community to support understanding and advocacy of strong US-UN relationships, and to reinforce the importance of U.S. leadership in foreign affairs.

Previous Awardees for Reference

2024 UNA-USA Awardees

Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award:

UNA-USA Campus Chapter of Excellence Award:

UNA-USA Community Chapter of Excellence Award:

UNA-USA Advocate of the Year Award:

UNA-USA Young Leader of the Year Award:

2022/2023 UNA-USA Awardees

Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award: Judith Harris

UNA-USA Campus Chapter of Excellence Award: UNA Ohio State University

UNA-USA Community Chapter of Excellence Award: UNA San Fernando Valley

UNA-USA Advocate of the Year Award: London Bell

UNA-USA Young Leader of the Year Award: Raina Kadavil

2021 UNA-USA Awardees

Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award: Jeanne “Ginger” Stillman

UNA-USA Campus Chapter of Excellence Award: UNA Harvard University Chapter

UNA-USA Community Chapter of Excellence Award: UNA Bronx Chapter

UNA-USA Advocate of the Year Award: Cindy Serrano Roberts

UNA-USA Young Leader of the Year Award: Isabel Treidl

2020 UNA-USA Awardees

Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award: Joseph Baxer

UNA-USA Campus Chapter of Excellence Award: Arizona State University

UNA-USA Community Chapter of Excellence Award: UNA Broward County

UNA-USA Advocate of the Year Award: Jillian Boardman

UNA-USA Young Leader of the Year Award: Bianca Selgado

Background Information

During the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 and 2021, UNA-USA incorporated the UNA-USA awards into virtual UN Day programming. In 2022, there was an initial call for nominations to be presented virtually during UN Day celebrations, but the decision was made to move the awards presentation to the following UNA-USA Leadership Summit held in June 2023. In 2024, the awards were presented in-person during the UNA-USA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. in June 2024.

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