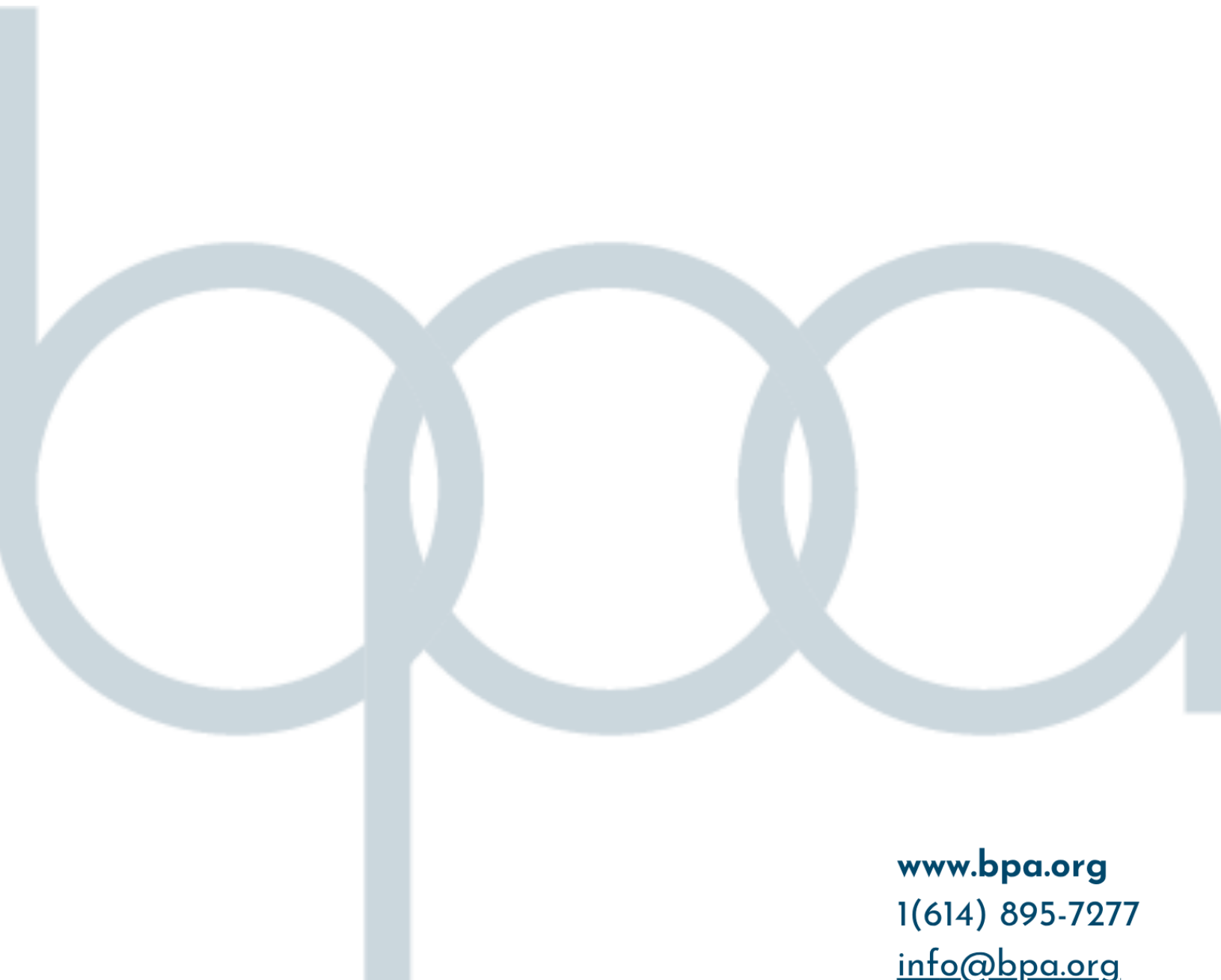


Cares Awards Handbook

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS *of* AMERICA



www.bpa.org
1(614) 895-7277
info@bpa.org

BPA CARES AWARDS AT-A-GLANCE

BPA Cares Awards honor chapters, student members, advisors, and others for their leadership and community service, proficiency in chapter management, and outstanding support for BPA. Award recipients are recognized at the National Leadership Conference.

Application deadline for all awards is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 15, 2027.

Award	Honoree	Deadline	Number of Awardees	Activity Period
Professional Awards				
Advisor of the Year	Advisor	March 15, 2027	1	Years as advisor
Emerging Advisor of the Year	Advisor	March 15, 2027	1	First 5 years
Emerging Professional of the Year	Alumni Member	March 15, 2027	1	First 5 years
Hall of Fame	Supporter	March 15, 2027	2	10+ years
Outstanding Service	Supporter	March 15, 2027	5	Years of service
Student of the Year (Secondary & Postsecondary)	Member	March 15, 2027	2	Membership year
Service Learning Awards				
Community Service	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Environmental Action/Awareness	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Safety Awareness	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Service Learning Individual	Member	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Special Olympics	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Special Recognition Awards				
BPA Merit Scholar	Member, Advisor, Alumni	No application	Unlimited	Not applicable
Chapter Activities Award of Excellence	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Quality Chapter Distinction	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Recruiter of the Year	Member	March 15, 2027	3 – One per division	8/01/26-2/15/27
Marketing and Communications	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Membership Explosion	Chapter	No application	Unlimited	8/01/26-2/15/27
The Professional Cup	State Association	No application	3 – One per division	Membership year

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Eligibility

- All applicants must be in good standing with Business Professionals of America.
- Award applications or nominations must be submitted via the online form in the [BPA Member Gateway](#). Applications may not be submitted via email, delivery service, or as part of other BPA submissions.
- Submissions become the property of BPA and may be used as the National Center deems appropriate.
- For assistance with the BPA Cares program, email support@bpa.org.

Award Participation Rules

- Activities completed by chapters or members can count toward only one BPA Cares Award.
- Exception: Activities cited in a Service Learning Individual Award application may also be counted in other award applications.
- Exception: Activities cited in a Chapter Activities Award of Excellence application may also be counted in other award applications.
- Chapters may complete more than one activity to meet the requirements for volunteer hours or money raised.
- Chapters and members are not required to attend the National Leadership Conference to participate in the BPA Cares program or to receive an award. Merit Scholar is the only award administered on-site at the conference. Chapters or members who do not attend may receive awards by mail upon payment of shipping costs.

Chapter Award Requirements

- Co-Located Chapters: Secondary and Post-Secondary chapters operating at the same school are separate chapters and must submit independently for all BPA Cares Awards. Hours, dollars, and participant counts reported in any submission must reflect only the members of that specific chapter. A Secondary chapter's submission may not include hours, dollars, or participants from its co-located Post-Secondary chapter, and vice versa.
- Per-Member Thresholds: All hour and dollar thresholds for chapter awards are calculated against total paid chapter membership as of February 15, 2027 – not the number of members who participated in the activity. The online application will require chapters to confirm their total paid membership count, which will be verified against BPA registration records.
- Submissions that do not meet the stated minimum threshold for an award will not be reviewed.
- If the same chapter or individual submits substantially the same application for the same award in the same program year, only the most recent submission will be reviewed. For nomination-based awards, a nominator may submit only one nomination per nominee per award per year.

Activity Description Requirements

- Activity descriptions must include a title, date of completion, location (if applicable), and activity details.
- Activity details must address all four of the following elements:
 - Activity name and type
 - Date and audience or beneficiary
 - Measurable outcome (hours, dollars, participants, items collected, etc.)
 - How the activity fulfills the specific award's purpose

Fundraising Guidelines

- Fundraising activities may only be counted toward dollar thresholds if the funds raised are donated in full to a qualifying charitable organization. Fundraising that benefits the chapter – including but not limited to travel costs, competition fees, or equipment purchases – does not count toward any award dollar threshold. For example, a fundraiser to cover NLC attendance costs does not qualify even if the fundraising activity itself relates to the award topic.
- Chapters must submit a receipt or written confirmation from the receiving charitable organization documenting the donation as part of their award application.
- When reporting dollar values for donated goods, chapters must use the BPA Donation Item Reference Table below. Cash donations are counted at face value. For items not listed, chapters must provide documentation of fair market value.

Donation Item Reference Table*

Donated Item	Assigned Value	Source
Canned / non-perishable food item (per item)	\$1.00	Feeding America
Box or bag of dry goods (pasta, rice, cereal, etc.)	\$3.00	Feeding America
Winter jacket or coat	\$25.00	USDA / Goodwill valuation guide
Clothing item (shirt, pants, shoes – per item)	\$5.00	USDA / Goodwill valuation guide
Blanket or bedding item	\$10.00	USDA / Goodwill valuation guide
Toiletry item (toothbrush, soap, shampoo, etc.)	\$2.00	Feeding America
School supply kit (pencils, notebooks, etc.)	\$5.00	USDA standard
Toy (new, unwrapped – per item)	\$10.00	USDA standard
Book (new or gently used – per item)	\$3.00	USDA standard
Cash donation	Face value	N/A

**Items not listed in the table require documentation of fair market value. Items donated to organizations that assign their own published value (e.g., food banks with per-pound pricing) may use the organization's published value with supporting documentation.*

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of Business Professionals of America that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible.

★ PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Professional Awards recognize the individuals whose dedication behind the scenes makes BPA chapters thrive. This category honors advisors, alumni members, and longtime supporters who have made significant contributions to BPA at the chapter, state, and national levels – from those just beginning their journey as emerging advisors to those whose decades of service have shaped the organization.

Award	Honoree	Deadline	Number of Awardees	Activity Period
Advisor of the Year	Advisor	March 15, 2027	1	Years as advisor
Emerging Advisor of the Year	Advisor	March 15, 2027	1	First 5 years
Emerging Professional of the Year	Alumni Member	March 15, 2027	1	First 5 years
Hall of Fame	Supporter	March 15, 2027	2	10+ years
Outstanding Service	Supporter	March 15, 2027	5	Years of service
Student of the Year (Secondary & Postsecondary)	Member	March 15, 2027	2	Membership year

ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Advisor of the Year Award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to BPA as a chapter advisor. Chapter advisors in good standing are eligible. Nominations must include the nomination form, narrative summary of the nominee's contributions to BPA, the nominee's resume, and three letters of support (including one from an administrator and one from a current student).

Eligible Honoree	Advisor
Activity Period	Years of service as BPA advisor
# of Honorees	1 recipient selected annually
Submission Instructions	Submit nomination in the BPA Member Gateway
Nomination Deadline	March 15, 2027

Nominations must include all of the following:

- Nomination form
- Narrative summary of the nominee's contributions to BPA
- Nominee's resume
- Three letters of support (including one from an administrator and one from a current student)

Recognition

Recipients will be recognized during the Opening Session at the 2027 National Leadership Conference. Recipients will receive a plaque on stage.

EMERGING ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Emerging Advisor of the Year Award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to BPA within their first five years as a BPA chapter advisor. Chapter advisors in good standing with five or fewer years of service are eligible. Award submissions must include a nomination form, narrative summary of the nominee's contributions to BPA, the nominee's resume, and three letters of support (including one from an administrator and one from a current student).

Eligible Honoree	Advisor
Activity Period	First 5 years of service as BPA advisor
# of Honorees	1 recipient selected annually
Submission Instructions	Submit nomination in the BPA Member Gateway
Nomination Deadline	March 15, 2027

Nominations must include all of the following:

- Nomination form
- Narrative summary of the nominee's contributions to BPA
- Nominee's resume
- Three letters of support (including one from an administrator and one from a current student)

Recognition

Recipients will be recognized during the Opening Session at the 2027 National Leadership Conference. Recipients will receive a plaque on stage.

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Emerging Professional of the Year Award recognizes an alumni member who has demonstrated professional achievements and has contributed to BPA within their first five years as an alumni member. Alumni members in good standing are eligible. Nominations must include a nomination form, narrative summary of the nominee's contributions to BPA, three letters of support, and the nominee's resume.

Eligible Honoree	Alumni Member
Activity Period	First 5 Years of Professional Life
# of Honorees	1 recipient selected annually
Submission Instructions	Submit nomination in the BPA Member Gateway
Nomination Deadline	March 15, 2027

Nominations must include all of the following:

- Nomination form
- Narrative summary of the nominee's contributions to BPA
- Three letters of support
- Nominee's resume

Recognition

Recipients will be recognized during the Opening Session at the 2027 National Leadership Conference. Recipients will receive a plaque on stage.

HALL OF FAME AWARD

The Hall of Fame Award is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to BPA at the local, state, and national levels for at least 10 years. National staff and current student members are ineligible for this award. Nominations will be accepted from the Board of Trustees, BPA State Advisors, Classroom Educators Advisory Council, National Business Advisory Council, Executive Council, chapter advisors, and national staff. A maximum of two individuals will be inducted into the Hall of Fame each year at the National Leadership Conference.

Eligible Honoree	BPA supporter
Activity Period	10+ years of service to BPA
# of Honorees	Up to 2 recipients selected annually
Eligible Nominators	Board of Trustees, BPA State Advisors, Classroom Educators Advisory Council, National Business Advisory Council, Executive Council, chapter advisors, and national staff.
Submission Instructions	Submit nomination in the BPA Member Gateway
Nomination Deadline	March 15, 2027

Nominations must include all items listed below:

- Nomination form
- One-page, single-spaced, narrative biography of the nominee's support for BPA
- Three letters of recommendation (weigh heavily in evaluation)
- Letter of support from the State Advisor (unless the nominee is the State Advisor); does not count as one of the three letters of recommendation
- One-page resume summarizing BPA accomplishments

Recognition

Recipients will be recognized during the Opening Session at the 2027 National Leadership Conference. Recipients will receive a plaque on stage.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Outstanding Service Awards recognize individuals who have dedicated time and effort to promote the objectives of career and technical student organizations and BPA. To be eligible, the nominee must not have received the Outstanding Service Award within the past five years. National staff and current student members are not eligible for this award. Nominations will be accepted from the Board of Trustees, BPA State Advisors, Classroom Educators Advisory Council, National Business Advisory Council, Executive Council, chapter advisors, members, and national staff. A maximum of five individuals will be honored each year at the National Leadership Conference.

Eligible Honoree	BPA supporter <i>*Nominee must not have received the Outstanding Service Award within the past five years.</i>
Activity Period	Lifetime support of BPA
# of Honorees	Up to 5 recipients selected annually
Eligible Nominators	Board of Trustees, BPA State Advisors, Classroom Educators Advisory Council, National Business Advisory Council, Executive Council, chapter advisors, members, and national staff.
Submission Instructions	Submit nomination in the BPA Member Gateway
Nomination Deadline	March 15, 2027

Nominations must include all items listed below:

- Nomination form
- Lists of local, state, and national activities and involvement
- Other professional organizations and community service
- Other information about the nominee that will assist the selection committee

Recognition

Recipients will be recognized during the Opening Session at the 2027 National Leadership Conference. Recipients will receive a plaque on stage.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Student of the Year Awards recognize students (Secondary and Post-secondary) who have made significant contributions to BPA. Recipients will be honored with an award onstage at the National Leadership Conference and a \$1,000 scholarship. Applicants must be student members in good standing. Current or former members of the Executive Council are ineligible. Applicants must submit the application form, narrative summary of contributions to BPA, resume, two letters of support (one from a chapter advisor and one from another member of the school faculty/staff, CTE director, principal, dean, superintendent, or school board president).

Eligible Honorees	BPA student member in good standing. <i>*Current and/or former executive council members are not eligible.</i>
Activity Period	Current membership year
# of Honorees	2 recipients selected annually - 1 secondary & 1 postsecondary member
Eligibility Requirements	Applicants must meet all the requirements below: • Completed at least one full year as a student member • Served as a chapter, regional, or state officer • Attended at least one State Leadership Conference and one National Leadership Conference • Competed in the Workplace Skills Assessment Program • Earned the Ambassador Torch Award • Participated in the BPA Cares program The applicant must also have fulfilled at least five of the criteria below: • Attended an additional State Leadership Conference, BPA Launch, or National Leadership Conference • Earned the BPA National Merit Scholar Award • Participated in the volunteer program at the National Leadership Conference • Participated in BPA Launch Student Leadership Summit or the NLC Leadership Academy • Volunteered at least 20 hours or raised at least \$75 for the Special Olympics • Completed the Student Member Certification Series-Level 1 • Completed the Student Member Certification Series-Level 2 • Earned the Recruiter of the Year Award
Submission Instructions	Submit application in the BPA Member Gateway
Nomination Deadline	March 15, 2027
Recognition	Recipients will be recognized during the Opening Session at the 2027 National Leadership Conference. Recipients will receive a plaque on stage and a \$1,000 scholarship.

★ SERVICE LEARNING AWARDS

Service Learning Awards celebrate chapters and individual members who put BPA's commitment to community into action. This category recognizes meaningful engagement beyond the classroom – volunteering, fundraising, environmental stewardship, safety awareness, and support for Special Olympics – and encourages members to develop the leadership and civic skills that define a well-rounded BPA experience.

Award	Honoree	Deadline	Number of Awardees	Activity Period
Community Service	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26–3/15/27
Environmental Action/Awareness	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26–3/15/27
Safety Awareness	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26–3/15/27
Service Learning Individual	Member	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26–3/15/27
Special Olympics	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26–3/15/27

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

CHAPTER AWARD (Based on total chapter membership as of February 15, 2027)

Community Service Awards recognize chapters for involvement in community betterment and school improvement initiatives. Activities may include volunteering or contributing to blood drives, clothing drives, food drives, disaster relief assistance, shelters, or other community service activities.

Eligibility Reminders

- **Schools with Multiple Chapters:** Chapters operating at the same school are separate chapters and must submit independently for all BPA Cares Awards. Hours, dollars, and participant counts reported in any submission must reflect only the members of that specific chapter. A Secondary chapter's submission may not include hours, dollars, or participants from its co-located Post-Secondary chapter, and vice versa.
- **Per-Member Thresholds:** All hour and dollar thresholds for chapter awards are calculated against total paid chapter membership as of February 15, 2027 – not the number of members who participated in the activity. The online application will require chapters to confirm their total paid membership count, which will be verified against BPA registration records.

Note on Fundraising

- Funds raised must be donated in full to a qualifying charitable organization. Fundraising that benefits the chapter does not count toward dollar thresholds.
- Chapters must submit a receipt or written confirmation from the receiving organization as part of their application.
- When reporting donated goods, use the BPA Donation Item Reference Table in the General Guidelines. Cash donations count at face value.

Award Levels

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Eligible Honorees	BPA chapters in good standing	
Award Requirements	At least 20–34 volunteer hours OR \$75.00–\$124.99 raised per member	At least 35 volunteer hours OR at least \$125 raised per student member

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Application Deadline	March 15, 2027	
Activity Period	March 16, 2026 – March 15, 2027 *Activities outside this window are not eligible.	
Submission Instructions	Submit application in BPA Member Gateway	
Recognition	Certificate of Achievement	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards at NLC

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION/AWARENESS AWARD

CHAPTER AWARD (Based on total chapter membership as of February 15, 2027)

Environmental Action/Awareness Awards recognize chapters for activities that protect or increase awareness about the planet's environment and natural resources. Activities may include volunteering or training projects related to recycling, water conservation, energy conservation or renewable energy, composting, and other environmental issues.

Eligibility Reminders

- **Schools with Multiple Chapters:** Chapters operating at the same school are separate chapters and must submit independently for all BPA Cares Awards. Hours, dollars, and participant counts reported in any submission must reflect only the members of that specific chapter. A Secondary chapter's submission may not include hours, dollars, or participants from its co-located Post-Secondary chapter, and vice versa.
- **Per-Member Thresholds:** All hour and dollar thresholds for chapter awards are calculated against total paid chapter membership as of February 15, 2027 – not the number of members who participated in the activity. The online application will require chapters to confirm their total paid membership count, which will be verified against BPA registration records.

Qualifying Activities

- Recycling programs and waste reduction initiatives
- Energy or water conservation projects
- Composting initiatives
- Environmental education or awareness events
- Community clean-up campaigns
- Sustainability awareness campaigns

Non-Qualifying Activities

- Food drives, clothing drives, or general community service with no environmental component
- Activities that are submitted under the Community Service or Safety Awareness awards

Fundraising

- Funds raised must be donated in full to a qualifying charitable organization. Fundraising that benefits the chapter does not count toward dollar thresholds.
- Chapters must submit a receipt or written confirmation from the receiving organization as part of their application.
- When reporting donated goods, use the BPA Donation Item Reference Table in the General Guidelines. Cash donations count at face value.

Award Levels

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Eligible Honorees	BPA chapters in good standing	
Award Requirements	At least 20-34 volunteer hours OR \$75.00-\$124.99 raised per member	At least 35 volunteer hours OR at least \$125 raised per student member
Application Deadline	March 15, 2027	
Activity Period	March 16, 2026 - March 15, 2027 *Activities outside this window are not eligible.	
Submission Instructions	Submit application in BPA Member Gateway	
Recognition	Certificate of Achievement	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards at NLC

SAFETY AWARENESS AWARD

CHAPTER AWARD (Based on total chapter membership as of February 15, 2027)

Safety Awareness Awards recognize chapters for involvement in activities that promote safety, including workplace safety, traffic safety and seat belt use, personal safety, drug awareness, cyber safety, anti-violence awareness, or safety programs.

Eligibility Reminders

- **Schools with Multiple Chapters:** Chapters operating at the same school are separate chapters and must submit independently for all BPA Cares Awards. Hours, dollars, and participant counts reported in any submission must reflect only the members of that specific chapter. A Secondary chapter's submission may not include hours, dollars, or participants from its co-located Post-Secondary chapter, and vice versa.
- **Per-Member Thresholds:** All hour and dollar thresholds for chapter awards are calculated against total paid chapter membership as of February 15, 2027 – not the number of members who participated in the activity. The online application will require chapters to confirm their total paid membership count, which will be verified against BPA registration records.

Fundraising

- Funds raised must be donated in full to a qualifying charitable organization. Fundraising that benefits the chapter does not count toward dollar thresholds.
- Chapters must submit a receipt or written confirmation from the receiving organization as part of their application.
- When reporting donated goods, use the BPA Donation Item Reference Table in the General Guidelines. Cash donations count at face value.

Award Levels

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Eligible Honorees	BPA chapters in good standing	
Award Requirements	At least 20-34 volunteer hours OR \$75.00-\$124.99 raised per member	At least 35 volunteer hours OR at least \$125 raised per student member

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Application Deadline	March 15, 2027	
Activity Period	March 16, 2026 – March 15, 2027 <i>*Activities outside this window are not eligible.</i>	
Submission Instructions	Submit application in BPA Member Gateway	
Recognition	Certificate of Achievement	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards at NLC

SERVICE LEARNING INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Service Learning Individual Awards recognize student and alumni members who have accumulated at least 500 hours of service learning within the membership year. Activities may include volunteering, training, or contributing to blood drives, clothing drives, food drives, disaster relief assistance, humanitarian assistance, community shelters, or other support activities. Service hours counted toward chapter awards may also be counted toward this award.

Award Levels

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Eligible Honorees	BPA members in good standing	
Award Requirements	At least 500 service hours	One member per division with the highest number of service hours
Application Deadline	March 15, 2027	
Activity Period	March 16, 2026 – March 15, 2027 <i>*Activities outside this window are not eligible.</i>	
Submission Instructions	Submit application in BPA Member Gateway <i>*Applications reporting fewer than 500 service hours will not be reviewed.</i>	
Recognition	Certificate of Achievement	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards at NLC

SPECIAL OLYMPICS AWARD

CHAPTER AWARD (Based on total chapter membership as of February 15, 2027)

Special Olympics Awards recognize chapters for involvement with BPA's national service project, Special Olympics, whose mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

Fundraising

- Funds raised must be donated in full to Special Olympics or a qualifying affiliated organization. Fundraising that benefits the chapter does not count toward dollar thresholds.
- Chapters must submit a receipt or written confirmation from the receiving organization as part of their application.
- When reporting donated goods, use the BPA Donation Item Reference Table in the General Guidelines. Cash donations count at face value.

Award Levels

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Eligible Honorees	BPA chapters in good standing	
Award Requirements	At least 20-34 volunteer hours OR \$75.00-\$124.99 raised per member	At least 35 volunteer hours OR at least \$125 raised per student member
Application Deadline	March 15, 2027	
Activity Period	March 16, 2026 - March 15, 2027 *Activities outside this window are not eligible.	
Submission Instructions	Submit application in BPA Member Gateway	
Recognition	Certificate of Achievement	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards at NLC

★ SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Special Recognition Awards acknowledge the chapters and individuals who go above and beyond in building strong BPA programs and promoting the organization's mission. This category covers a broad range of achievement – from chapters that excel in chapter management and marketing, to members who demonstrate exceptional knowledge of BPA, to state associations whose leadership drives participation across their membership.

Award	Honoree	Deadline	Number of Awardees	Activity Period
BPA Merit Scholar Award	Individual	No Application	Unlimited	Not Applicable
Chapter Activities Award of Excellence	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Quality Chapter Distinction	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Marketing and Communications Award	Chapter	March 15, 2027	Unlimited	3/16/26-3/15/27
Membership Explosion Award	Chapter	No Application	Unlimited	8/1/26-2/15/27
Recruiter of the Year	Individual	March 15, 2027	One per division	8/1/26-2/15/27
Professional Cup	State	No Application	One per division	Membership Year

BPA MERIT SCHOLAR AWARD

BPA Merit Scholar Awards recognize individuals for their knowledge of BPA and its history, traditions, programs, and activities. Any member in good standing, including advisors and alumni, may take the Merit Scholar exam at the National Leadership Conference. Questions are taken from the BPA Cares Handbook, the Torch Awards Handbook, and www.BPA.org. The BPA Merit Scholar exam is not part of the Workplace Skills Assessment Program. No application is required.

- Merit Scholar pin and recognition at the National Leadership Conference: Individuals scoring 90% or higher on the exam

Eligible Honorees	BPA members, advisors, and alumni in good standing
Award Requirements	Individuals 90% or higher on the BPA Merit Scholar Exam at NLC
Exam Details	Questions are taken from the BPA Cares Handbook, the Torch Awards Handbook, and www.BPA.org .
Application Requirements	No application or registration required. Interested individuals should sit for the BPA Merit Scholar Exam at NLC.
Recognition	Merit scholar pin and recognition during the Grand Awards Finale at NLC

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

CHAPTER AWARD (Based on total chapter membership as of February 15, 2027)

Chapter Activities Awards of Excellence recognize chapters having a robust program of activities. Activities cited for this award can duplicate activities used in other award applications.

Required Award Submissions – Must Earn at Least Honorable Recognition

- Marketing and Communications Award (minimum of three qualifying activities).
- Community Service Award (minimum of one activity, totaling 20 hours per student member or \$75.00 donated per student member, based on total paid membership as of February 15, 2027).

Required Activity – Minimum One of Below

Complete one activity and provide a description for at least one of the awards below, totaling at least 10 hours per student or \$25 donated per student member, based on total paid membership as of February 15, 2027.

- Special Olympics
- Safety Awareness
- Environmental Action/Awareness

Required Chapter Activities – All of the Following

- Installing chapter officers or providing officer training
- Attending a BPA Regional, State, or National Leadership Conference
- Organizing a chapter social activity
- Preparing a chapter budget
- Offering a career development activity for members (such as hearing a speaker, watching a film, or taking a field trip)

Eligible Honorees	BPA chapters in good standing
Application Deadline	March 15, 2027
Activity Period	March 16, 2026 – March 15, 2027 *Activities outside this window are not eligible.
Submission Instructions	Submit application in BPA Member Gateway
Award Requirements	Must meet all eligibility requirements and score a minimum of 385 points from the rubric below.
Recognition	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards Ceremony at NLC

Chapter Activities Award of Excellence – Scoring Rubric				
Required Activity/Item	Activity described fulfills the requirement (0-20 points)	Activity descriptions are complete and include goals, results, and a quote (0-20 points)	Descriptions use complete sentences, proper capitalization, and correct spelling and grammar (0-10 points)	Points Earned
BPA Marketing and Communications Award Application				
Community Service Award Application				
Special Olympics, Safety Awareness, or Environmental Action/Awareness Activity				
Chapter Officer Installation				
Chapter Officer Training				
Leadership Conference				
Chapter Social Activity				
Chapter Budget				
Career Development Activity				
Chapter Activities Award of Excellence Point Total (maximum 450):				

QUALITY CHAPTER DISTINCTION

Quality Chapter Distinction recognizes chapters that have demonstrated active involvement in Business Professionals of America by meeting a defined set of program, leadership, and operational requirements. Chapters earning this distinction have shown a commitment to building a strong, well-rounded BPA program.

Eligible Honorees	BPA chapters in good standing
Application Deadline	March 15, 2027
Activity Period	March 16, 2026 – March 15, 2027 *Activities outside this window are not eligible.
Submission Instructions	Submit application in BPA Member Gateway
Award Requirements	See below for eligibility requirements
Recognition	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards Ceremony at NLC

Eligibility Requirements

Chapters must complete all three required items and at least six of the eight elective items. See the requirements table below.

Requirement	Type
Required: Implement Chapter Officers	Required
Required: Plan and execute monthly chapter meetings	Required
Required: Integrate leadership training programs and/or parliamentary procedure activities	Required
Elective: Plan and adhere to a budget	Elective (6 of 8 required)
Elective: Participate in the BPA Cares Program	Elective (6 of 8 required)
Elective: Nationally register two advisors for your chapter	Elective (6 of 8 required)
Elective: Increase chapter membership over the previous year	Elective (6 of 8 required)
Elective: Participate in a chapter, state, or national fund-raising program	Elective (6 of 8 required)
Elective: Participate in a conference outside the local chapter	Elective (6 of 8 required)
Elective: Participate in the Torch Awards Program	Elective (6 of 8 required)
Elective: Participate in Industry Challenges	Elective (6 of 8 required)

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Marketing and Communications Awards recognize chapters for marketing or public relations activities that promote BPA in the school or community. All activities must be outward-facing and specifically promote BPA to an audience beyond current members.

Award Levels

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Eligible Honorees	BPA chapters in good standing	
Award Requirements	Minimum of three qualifying activities	Minimum of five qualifying activities and scoring a minimum of 150 points on the scoring rubric
Application Deadline	March 15, 2027	
Activity Period	March 16, 2026 – March 15, 2027 *Activities outside this window are not eligible.	
Submission Instructions	Submit application in BPA Member Gateway	
Recognition	Certificate of Achievement	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards at NLC

Qualifying Activities

- Social media posts promoting BPA with documented reach or engagement metrics
- Newsletters sent to parents, staff, or the broader community
- Press releases or news media coverage of BPA
- Outreach or recruitment events open to prospective members
- School announcements, bulletin boards, or displays promoting BPA
- Chapter website updates
- Presentations to outside organizations (civic groups, feeder schools, etc.)

Non-Qualifying Activities

- Internal chapter meetings or officer training
- Community service activities with no BPA promotional component
- Fundraising events where BPA promotion is incidental
- Activities that only reach current chapter members

Co-Located Chapters

- Chapters sharing a school location may not submit the same activities. Each chapter must document distinct activities.

Marketing and Communications Award – Scoring Rubric					
Activity	Reach / Audience (0-10 pts)	Variety of Channel (0-10 pts)	Evidence of Impact (0-10 pts)	BPA Brand Alignment (0-10 pts)	Points Earned
Activity 1					
Activity 2					
Activity 3					

Marketing and Communications Award – Scoring Rubric					
Activity	Reach / Audience (0-10 pts)	Variety of Channel (0-10 pts)	Evidence of Impact (0-10 pts)	BPA Brand Alignment (0-10 pts)	Points Earned
Activity 4					
Activity 5					
Marketing and Communications Award Total Score (maximum 200):					

Scoring Guide	
Reach/Audience (0-10)	School-only audience = 1-3; school + parents/community = 4-7; regional/state/media coverage = 8-10
Variety of Channel (0-10)	1 channel of marketing = 1-3; 2 channels of marketing = 4-6; 3+ channels of marketing = 7-10
Evidence of Impact (0-10)	No metrics = 0-3; general description of outcome = 4-6; specific measurable result with numbers or documentation = 7-10
BPA Brand Alignment (0-10)	Activity clearly promotes BPA (not just the chapter or school) and reflects BPA's mission and values

MEMBERSHIP EXPLOSION AWARD

Membership Explosion Awards recognize chapters that have experienced significant growth in the current membership year. No application is required for this award. Any chapter that had at least 15 registered members in the previous membership year and has increased membership by at least 30 percent in the current membership year will automatically receive the award.

Award Levels

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Eligible Honorees	BPA chapters in good standing	
Award Requirements	Minimum 30% membership increase over prior year (minimum 15 members in prior year)	Top chapters per division with the largest increases by number of members and percentage of increase
# of Honorees	Unlimited	(3) - One per division
Activity Period	August 1, 2026 - February 15, 2027	
Application Instructions	No application required. BPA National Center will automatically calculate this award.	
Recognition	Certificate of Achievement	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards at NLC

RECRUITER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recruiter of the Year Awards recognize members who have achieved success in recruiting new BPA members and chapters. Recruited chapters can be in any division (except Alumni) and are not restricted to the applicant's division. "New members" are members who have not held previous membership in BPA. "New chapters" are chapters that have not had active BPA membership status in the previous three membership years.

Important application instructions:

1. List newly recruited members and chapter(s) with their membership identification numbers (assigned by the BPA registration system).
2. List a new chapter's school name, division, and date formed. New members are also eligible to apply for this award once registered as members. A BPA member can receive this award once annually.
3. The chapter advisor must verify electronically that the applicant recruited the new members and/or chapters.

Points are calculated as follows:

- Each new member recruited = 1 point
- Each new Middle Level, Secondary, or Post-secondary chapter recruited = 15 points, plus 1 point for every member recruited in the new chapter

Award Levels

	Honorable Recognition	Award of Achievement
Eligible Honorees	BPA members in good standing	
Award Requirements	Minimum of 5 points	One member in each membership division earning the most recruitment points.
Application Deadline	March 15, 2027	
# of Honorees	Unlimited	(3) - One per division
Activity Period	August 1, 2026 - February 15, 2027	
Application Instructions	Submit application in BPA Member Gateway	
Recognition	Certificate of Achievement	Plaque on stage during National Honor Awards at NLC

THE PROFESSIONAL CUP AWARD

The state association in each division ranking highest will receive a plaque to keep and the Professional Cup trophy to display until the next National Leadership Conference. In the event of a tie, the award will be given to the state association with the largest increase in the percentage of membership participating over the previous year. After the tenth year, the trophy will be retired and presented to the state association that won the award the most times during the ten years.

The Professional Cup recognizes BPA state associations for promoting involvement in the BPA Cares Award Program. No application is required. Scores in the eight categories below determine the final ranking.

Scoring Categories:

- Percentage of chapters participating in the following BPA Cares Awards: Service Learning Awards (all awards in this category are eligible), Marketing and Communications Award, and Chapter Activities Award of Excellence
- Number of chapters participating in the BPA Cares Award program
- Percentage of members receiving the Ambassador Torch Award
- Number of members receiving the Ambassador Torch Award
- Percentage of chapters earning the Membership Explosion Award
- Number of chapters earning the Membership Explosion Award
- Percentage of chapters earning the Quality Chapter Distinction
- Number of chapters earning the Quality Chapter Distinction

What You Earn	Professional Cup trophy and plaque per division
Requirement	State association ranking highest in each division based on combined scores across all eight categories
How to Submit	No application required – BPA National Center calculates automatically