



MEMO

To: U.S. Olympic and Paralympic family
From: United States Olympic Committee
Date: May 24, 2012
RE: Nominations for Olympic Torch and Rings of Gold awards

Nominations are now being accepted for three prestigious United States Olympic Committee awards: the Olympic Torch Award and the Rings of Gold Award for both an individual and program.

OLYMPIC TORCH AWARD

The Olympic Torch Award is presented to an individual in recognition of outstanding service to the U.S. Olympic Movement.

Now an annual honor, the award was first established in 1965. The recipient has made a positive impact on the Olympic Movement in the United States and has made many contributions to promoting the Olympic Ideals throughout the country.

Criteria

- Honors an individual
- Recognizes meaningful impact on U.S. Olympic Movement
- Does not need to be awarded in same year of contributions

RINGS OF GOLD AWARDS

The Rings of Gold awards annually recognize both an individual and a program dedicated to helping children develop their Olympic or Paralympic dreams and reach their highest athletic and personal potential.

Inaugurated in 1996, the Rings of Gold awards highlight individuals and programs making a difference in the lives of children by bringing the Olympic and Paralympic movements and ideals to the playing field. The individual honor recognizes someone who has dedicated his/her life to helping young people achieve their highest athletic potential, while also assisting them in setting goals and establishing the mechanisms needed to achieve personal success on and off the field of play. The program award honors those programs committed to nurturing and developing the Olympic and Paralympic dreams and goals of children, teaching America's youth valuable life skills and making a positive impact in their community.

Individual Criteria

- Honors an unsung hero involved with children and sport
- Exhibits commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic movements
- Demonstrates values of Olympism
- Does not need to be awarded in same year of contributions

Program Criteria

- Recognizes a grassroots program that introduces children to Olympic/Paralympic sport
- Demonstrates commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic movements through sports programming
- Reaches a diverse population
- Incorporates the Olympic Ideals into program
- Does not need to be awarded in same year of program

NOMINATIONS

Nominations can be submitted through the attached forms. An awards committee will review all nominations. Recipients will be honored during the 2012 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Assembly, held Sept. 20-21 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

- The deadline for submission is **Friday, June 22, 2012**. Questions and completed nomination forms should be sent to awards@usoc.org.
- Each nominator may submit one nomination per award category.