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United States Para-Equestrian Association



For Immediate Release:

Written by: Courtesy United States Olympic Committee

Photos by: Courtesy United States Olympic Committee

Media Contact: Hope Hand
3940 Verde Vista Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
E-mail: Wheeler966@aol.com
(610) 356-6481

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Nominations for Olympic Torch and Rings of Gold awards

(Press Release written and provided by the United States Olympic Committee)



May 25, 2012- 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](#)(click for more information)



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(click for more information)

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.
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- Each nominator may submit one nomination per award category.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

1. 2012 Olympic Torch Nomination-->[2012 Olympic Torch Nomination\(PDF\)](#)
2. 2012 Rings of Gold Nomination Individual-->[2012 Rings of Gold Nomination Individual\(PDF\)](#)
3. 2012 Rings of Gold Nomination Program-->[2012 Rings of Gold Nomination Program\(PDF\)](#)
4. Assembly Awards Nomination Memo from USOC-->[Assembly Awards Nomination Memo from USOC\(PDF\)](#)

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About United States Para-Equestrian Association:

The USPEA is a network of riders, judges, national federation board members, and equestrian enthusiasts. The association gives athletes the ability to get involved and expand their knowledge and experience in the Para-Equestrian sport. The USPEA encourages para-athletes to participate in all disciplines under the para-equestrian umbrella.

The USPEA is a recognized affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) which serves as the National Governing Body for the equestrian sport. This relationship between the USPEA and USEF is to encourage para-equestrian competitors, leisure riders, coaches, fans and enthusiasts to network and get involved with the entire equestrian sport.

Ultimately the goal of the USPEA is to foster growth in the para-equestrian discipline. From growth in the number of participants to growth as a team, and growth in the experience and knowledge of all involved. From local horse shows to international Olympic Games, the USPEA will provide para-equestrians the knowledge of what they need to succeed. The USPEA connects with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), and USEF which provides Para-Equestrians the top equestrian resources.

In June 2010, the USPEA earned its 501 (c)(3) status which has encouraged supporters to help supply funding to the Para-Equestrian Team as a recognized affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation(USEF).

For more information about the USPEA please visit www.USPEA.org or contact USPEA President: Hope Hand by e-mail: Wheeler966@aol.com or by phone: (610)356-6481.

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United States Para-Equestrian Association | 3940 Verde Vista Drive | Thousand Oaks | CA | 91360