

Springfield Good as Gold Distinguished Volunteer Award Criteria

The Good as Gold Committee will carefully evaluate nominations to select up to **five** finalists for the Distinguished Volunteer Award. Since the Distinguished Volunteer Award recognizes long-term commitments to service—often extending beyond the nominator's own experiences—we *strongly encourage nominators to engage with the nominee, as well as their friends, family, and colleagues from various organizations they have been involved with over the years*. While we understand this may compromise the element of surprise, gathering insights from multiple sources will help you construct a thorough Volunteer History. This, in turn, will significantly enhance your nominee's chances of receiving the recognition they truly deserve.

While we understand that not every nomination will address all criteria, providing information across these areas will strengthen the nomination. The following bullet points outline specific examples and qualities that align with each category, guiding nominators in highlighting the nominee's exceptional contributions.

Finalist will be chosen based on three key criteria: 1) **Duration, Commitment, and Leadership**—assessing the length of service and the nominee's ability to inspire and lead others; 2) **Impact**—measuring the tangible difference their efforts have made in the community; and 3) **Spirit of Service**—recognizing the nominee's dedication and passion for helping others.

Duration, Commitment, and Leadership

- Total span of volunteer efforts
- Approximate weekly hours committed to service
- Leadership roles in events, organizations, or evidence that they have sought to initiate improvements/innovations/advancements toward a goal
- Success in the leadership/initiative roles taken

Impact

- Approximate number of people assisted, youth mentored, houses built, etc.
- Number of events supported, organizations volunteered for, fundraisers, etc.
- Evidence of having a transformative effect on a person, program, neighborhood, etc.
- Evidence of being integral to the success of an event, organization, fundraiser, etc.

Spirit of Service

- The nominee gave freely without seeking personal gain
- This person was inspirational, motivational to others
- This person shared their passions and talents

Volunteer History Template Examples

Select either the bullet point style OR paragraph style for the nominee's Volunteer History

Bullet Point Style:

Ann X. Ample

Springfield Example School 2003-2011 Volunteer Teacher's Aide for Grades 3-5

- Spent approximately 15 hours a week at the school
- Worked with three teachers each having a classroom of approximately 20 students
- 3rd Grade teacher Janice Max said of Ann "without her, bulletin boards would not be done, reading time would be chaos, and so much of the time I spend working with students would have to be spent at the copy machine. I don't know what I would do without her.
- Former student John Smith has entered his second year of college and had this to say of Ann, "She taught me so much and never asked anything in return. She is the reason I became interested in seeking a degree in education. I want to be able to provide that learning opportunity for kids that need a little extra one-on-one time, like I did."

Springfield Example Museum 2000 – Present Museum Guide and Fundraising Chair

- Spent approximately 10 hours a week at the museum from 2000 – 2003 giving tours
- In 2003 Ann joined the museum board as the fundraising chair
- Since 2003 she has helped organize 7 fundraisers that have combined for over \$25,000 of donations to the museum
- Ann has been willing to ask her personal friends and family to support the fundraising efforts of the museum and this has led to a significant increase in the number of individual donors we have seen giving

Paragraph Style

Sangamon Parks 1978-2003 Organized park cleanup projects with grade school students

Ann organized projects to bring approximately 15 grade school students one Saturday each month to spend 2 hours at a local park learn about the importance of parks and to have the students help maintain the grounds. In fact, when we lost part of our grant money in 2000, Ann focused her efforts and Starks Park and helped make one of our least maintained areas become one of our brightest examples. These clean-up efforts were not an existing program in the 70s and 80s, Ann took this upon herself. However after over 25 years of her efforts the clean-up programs have become one of our most popular events with many other organizations now planning clean-up projects like Ann's.