

# City of La Quinta Community Awards Program

The City of La Quinta's community awards programs were developed to recognize the individuals who have made significant impacts in La Quinta through their acts of service, kindness, leadership, and dedication to serving the community. Citizens are encouraged to nominate individuals they feel are deserving of these awards based on the criteria listed below. Nominees are assessed and reviewed on a case-by-case basis and awarded at the discretion of City staff, Arts and Community Services Commission (ACSC), and/or City Council. The City of La Quinta reserves the right to approve or deny any and all awards nominees.



## Pillar of the Community

### **Qualifications:**

1. Candidates must be or have been a resident of La Quinta for a minimum of three (3) years, including La Quinta residents who have passed away.
2. Candidates must have dedicated a minimum of three (3) years of service to the community of La Quinta in one or more of the following areas:
  - Community Engagement & Leadership – Taking part and/or leading efforts to improve the local community and address community issues.
  - Volunteer Efforts & Philanthropy – Donation of time or services to local organizations including nonprofits, charities, schools, animal shelters, senior centers, sports leagues, churches, and/or youth organizations.
  - Public service – Employment or involvement in public service fields including education, law enforcement, emergency services, healthcare, and/or local government.

### **Recognition Process:**

- Nominations are accepted year-round.
- SIA recipients are not automatically inducted as Pillars of the Community.
- Candidates may have received prior recognition from the City in one or more of the following areas:
  - Distinguished Citizen Award
  - Community Services Award
  - Junior Inspiration/Youth Achievement Award
- Nominees are vetted by City staff, recommended by ACSC, and approved by City Council.
- Recipients are presented with an award and/or plaque during a special Pillars of the Community Ceremony in the Council Chambers.
- Recipient names are permanently added to the perpetual plaque located in the City Hall lobby.
- Recipient names are permanently added to the Pillar of the Community and Distinguished Citizen monument located in Civic Center Campus.
- Recipients are acknowledged at the City Picnic, and/or additional City Events.
- Recipients are featured on the City's social media and mentioned in The Gem community magazine.



## Junior Inspiration & Youth Achievement Award

### **Qualifications:**

1. Candidates must be five (5) to eighteen (18) years of age.
2. Candidates must be or have been a La Quinta resident or attended a La Quinta school (public, private, or homeschool) for a minimum of one (1) year.
3. Candidates must have contributed significantly to the community of La Quinta. Examples may include:
  - Academic Achievement – Accomplishments attained in an academic setting include outstanding test scores, research outcomes, scholarships, academic honors, and/or continued education.
  - Acts of Kindness or Service – Helping others, organizing fundraisers, planting trees, leading a community clean-up event, and/or any other acts of selfless service that positively impact the community.
  - Artistic Achievement – Accomplishments in the field of visual, literary, or performing arts including awards, scholarships, productions, and overall achievements in the arts.
  - Athletic Achievement – Accomplishments in the field of sports including outstanding athletic performance (team or individual), scholarships, and/or tournament/championship game performances.
  - Community Engagement & Leadership – Taking part and/or leading efforts to improve the local community and address community issues. Help to build self-esteem and be a good role model for their peers.
  - Volunteer Efforts – Donation of time or services to local organizations including nonprofits, charities, schools, animal shelters, senior centers, sports leagues, churches, and/or youth organizations.

### **Recognition Process:**

- Nominations are accepted year-round.
- Nominees are vetted by City staff, recommended by ACSC, and approved by City Council.
- Recipients are presented with an award/certificate during a City Council meeting. To allow for instantaneous recognition, recipients will be honored at a Council meeting immediately following the ACSC meeting during which they were approved for the award.
- Recipients are acknowledged at the City Picnic, and/or additional City Events.
- Recipients are acknowledged on the City's social media.



## Distinguished Citizen

### **Qualifications:**

1. Candidates must be or have been a \*resident of La Quinta for a minimum of one (1) year, including former residents who have passed away.
  - Individuals who do not currently live in La Quinta or have never been a La Quinta resident are considered eligible if they have volunteered, own a La Quinta-based business, or served La Quinta residents in some capacity for a minimum of three (3) years. Examples include:
    - Teachers who live in other Coachella Valley cities, but teach at La Quinta schools
    - Youth sports coaches who live in other Coachella Valley cities, but coach La Quinta teams
    - Business owners who live in other Coachella Valley cities, but own businesses in La Quinta
2. Candidates must have contributed to the community of La Quinta and/or Coachella Valley through their acts of service or involvement with community organizations, athletics, or the local art scene. Examples may include:
  - Volunteering or involvement with nonprofits, charities, schools, animal shelters, food banks, senior centers, etc.
  - Coaches, referees, professional/collegiate athletes, involvement with youth sports organizations, etc.
  - Painters, sculptors, performing artists, musicians, writers, etc.

### **Recognition Process:**

- Nominations are accepted year-round.
- Nominees are vetted by City staff, recommended by ACSC, and approved by City Council.
- Recipients are presented with an award/plaque during a City Council meeting.
- Recipients are acknowledged at the City Picnic, and/or additional City Events.
- Recipients are acknowledged on the City's social media.
- Recipient names are engraved on the Distinguished Citizen/Artists & Athletes monument in Civic Center Campus



## Community Service Award

### **Qualifications:**

1. Candidates must be a current \*resident of La Quinta for a minimum of one (1) year including former residents who have passed away.
  - \*Individuals who do not currently live in La Quinta or have never been a La Quinta resident are considered eligible if they have volunteered, own a La Quinta-based business, or served La Quinta residents in some capacity for a minimum of three (3) years. Examples include:
    - Teachers who live in other Coachella Valley cities, but teach at La Quinta schools
    - Youth sports coaches who live in other Coachella Valley cities, but coach La Quinta teams
    - Business owners who live in other Coachella Valley cities, but own businesses in La Quinta
2. Candidates must have demonstrated acts of kindness or service to the community of La Quinta through their time, actions, talents, or dedication. Examples may include:
  - Leadership
  - Social Responsibility
  - Mentorship
  - Positive Change
  - Selfless Service to the Community
3. Candidates should serve as a role model for compassion and strive to make the community of La Quinta a better place.

### **Recognition Process:**

- Nominations are accepted year-round.
- Nominees are vetted by City staff, recommended by ACSC, and approved by City Council.
- Recipients are presented with a certificate during a City Council meeting.
- Recipients are acknowledged at the City Picnic, and/or additional City Events.
- Recipients are acknowledged on the City's social media.