

# ***FLORIDA PTA*** **AWARDS**



***Program Awards***  
***Honorary Awards***  
***Membership Awards***

***2024 – 2025***

## General Awards Information

Every year, Florida PTA offers awards and certificates to recognize PTA/PTSA achievement. Consider applying for awards to bring recognition to your unit, your unit's programs, or to individuals making a difference in your community.

**Available Awards** are listed in this Section, **award application forms** will be available online at [www.floridapta.org/florida-pta-awards](http://www.floridapta.org/florida-pta-awards) after September 1. Unless noted, awards will be presented to an **Elementary or K-8 PTA**, a **Middle or High School PTA/PTSA**, and a **County Council** when applicable.

Award Applications may be submitted at any point after September 1. Online award applications are **due no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Complete the online submission form for each award.

**IMPORTANT: To qualify for an award, the following compliance requirements must be fulfilled before submitting your application:**

1. Current officer information must be on file with Florida PTA.
2. State and National portions of membership dues must be paid monthly as memberships are sold. Memberships can be sold all year. **For awards eligibility, all dues payments for memberships sold must be received by Florida PTA by May 1st.**
3. Copy of the completed current audit must be on file with the Florida PTA office by **Aug 31**.
4. Copy of the **IRS 990** must be on file with the Florida PTA office by **Nov 30**.
5. **Bylaws** must be current (reviewed and approved by Florida PTA within the past three years).
6. Please check with your Council for any additional compliance requirements, such as, but not limited to, Council dues.

**Note: Unless otherwise noted, recognition will be at the elementary, middle/high and county council/community PTA levels.**



## **Program Awards**

**Advocacy Award** - This award is given to the PTA units that promote and support activities that advocate for students; change laws, processes, or methods to better the lives of every child. These activities must encompass the mission and purpose of PTA.

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Award (DEIJ)** - This award is given to PTA units that promote activities which convey how the PTA supports diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in our schools and communities, by bringing a wide range of students, parents and the community together for the good of the school.

**Eugenia B. Thomas Communication Award** – The purpose of this award is to recognize the best uses all forms of communication (newsletter, social media, website) to reach out to parents or local units.

**Family and Community Engagement Award** - The purpose of this award is to promote family and community engagement at local and community PTAs, and councils by recognizing programs, projects, and activities/events that increase family and community engagement and involvement. Programs, projects, and activities/events should positively impact students, families, and/or staff.

**Footprint Award** - This award will be bestowed upon a local unit or county council that originates a program, which can be replicated statewide.

**Friends of the Environment Award** - This award is given for programs that support, promote and that are geared toward protecting the environment.

**Humanitarian Award** - This award is given to the local unit PTA/PTSA participating in activities that focus on the needs of their community and beyond, by showing initiative in community service.

**Literacy Award** - This award is given to PTA units that promote literacy among students, families, and the community; support the Media Center with activities that help make students better readers, writers, and thinkers; and advance the ideals of learning through the written word.

**Local Unit Achievement Award** - This award is given to PTA units that are successful in setting goals and following through on the unity of action which can best be achieved by following basic procedures.

**Mentor-A-PTA Award** - This award is given to a local unit PTA that adopted another PTA. The PTA must provide a helping hand to the adopted PTA by any of the following means: training, leadership, and financial support. The purpose is to provide assistance to the adopted PTA in the implementation of PTA values and goals.

**Outstanding Administrator of the Year Award** - This award is to recognize a school administrator who is supportive, helpful, and personally involved in the PTA. An elementary or middle/high PTA will be recognized.

**Safety Award** – PTA has always advocated for children’s safety and well-being. This award is to recognize the PTA units that offer effective safety programs which provide students, parents, and communities with information on keeping children safe.

**Special Needs Students with Unique Abilities Award** - This award is given to the local unit PTA/PTSA that supports programs or activities that are inclusive of students with disabilities in the school and enhances the role of students with disabilities in their community.

**STEM Award** – This award is presented to units that complete a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program which provides a framework to encourage programs in the crucial areas of (STEM). An elementary, middle, and high school PTA will be recognized.

**Trailblazer Award** - PTA seeks to bring into closer relations the school and community (i.e., places of worship, businesses, community leaders, etc.) This award will be awarded to a local unit or county council that is leading the way in programs that collaborate with the community and seeks to continue the mission.

## **PTSA and Student Awards**

The purpose of these awards is to generate and increase student involvement in Middle and High school and County Council PTSA units, and to recognize the significant contributions of student members.

**PTSA Recognition Award** – This award is given to Middle and High School units and County Councils who have transitioned from PTA to PTSA within the last year, and have defined student representative positions, thus furthering student involvement.

**Student Advocate Award** – This award is given to a student on the local unit or County Council level who has made significant contributions through Leadership/Service.

**Student Community Service Award** – A PTA/PTSA must submit an application for a particular group of students, five or more, who have participated in a community service project that they feel is worthy of notice. This group of students does not need to be affiliated directly with the school or the PTA/PTSA unit applying on their behalf.

**PTSA Student Involvement Award** – This award is given to the Middle or High school unit and County Council PTSA that encourages student membership and increases student involvement through student participation in the planning and implementation of PTSA programs.

## The President's Awards

There is no additional application required for these awards. They are selected by the Awards Committee and recommended for approval by the President. The President's Standing in the Gap Award is selected solely by the President. These Awards are presented during Leadership Convention.

**President's All Children Are Our Children Award** - This award is to recognize a PTA unit for programs/events that best fulfill the mission of the Florida PTA President. This award is intended to celebrate a PTA that has successfully focused efforts to bring equity and opportunity to every child by supporting the vulnerable/under-resourced children of our state.

**President's Local Unit Achievement Award** - This award will be presented to an Elementary or K-8 PTA and a Middle or High School PTA/PTSA for outstanding achievement in improving the quality of their PTA/PTSAs in the following areas: compliance, membership, training at the county/region and state level. (Award is selected by the President from the Local Unit Achievement Award applications)

**President's Program Award** - This award will be presented to an Elementary or K-8 PTA, a Middle or High School PTA/PTSA, as well as a County Council with a program that is a model for others to emulate and best embodies the mission of PTA. ( Award is selected by the President from the Trailblazer Award applications.)

## Honorary Awards

The following **Honorary Awards** are available for presentation all year to offer opportunities for special recognition at any time.

**History Walk of Fame** – Someone special can be honored by having their name inscribed on a brick that will be added to the **History Walk of Fame** at the Florida PTA State Office in Orlando. **There is a cost of \$100 for this award.** The recipient will receive a pin symbolizing this recognition.

**Honorary State Life Membership** – This honorary Membership Award is given for meritorious and outstanding service on behalf of children and youth. **There is a cost of \$75 for this award.** The recipient will receive a certificate, pin, and wallet ID card.

**President's Award of Honor** – This award is presented to individuals for their outstanding service to children. This award was created as a means to honor the special people that make PTA what it is today. Our President's Award of Honor is for recognition of educators, volunteers, students, individuals and/or businesses who make a difference for children. **There is a cost of \$30 for this award.** The recipient ***must already have a Florida PTA Honorary Life Membership to be eligible.*** Each honoree will receive a certificate from Florida PTA and their name will be on display at the Florida PTA State Office in Orlando. The net proceeds raised will be divided between the Florida PTA Scholarship Fund and the Florida PTA Building Fund.

## Membership Awards

**The 500+ PTA Service Club** – Nominate any person who has been a member of a local unit, a County Council unit, or a State PTA unit for at least 25 years. Twenty (20) honorees will be chosen each year; past Florida PTA Presidents will be automatically inducted without having to be nominated.

**100% Faculty Membership Award** – This includes full time principals, deans, teachers, librarians/media specialists, counselors, and all of the school-based faculty, support staff and administrators of the school. Faculty membership must be reported, and dues must be received in the state office before May 1st to qualify for this award.

**Acorn Award** – An Acorn Award Certificate will be given to the local PTA that has a majority of its faculty as members but, for some reason, cannot achieve 100%.

**Celebrate Membership Award** – PTA membership equal to the number of families represented in the school, on day five of the new school year, represents 100% membership and qualifies to earn this certificate. If the school is unable to determine the number of families, the following percentages can be used:

- 75% of students for K-5 (6 year schools)
- 75% of students for K-8 (7-9 year schools)
- 80% of students for (3-4 year schools)
- 85% of students for (2 year schools)
- 95% of students for single grade centers.

**Community Membership Award** – PTA seeks to bring into closer relations the school and community (i.e., places of worship, businesses, community leaders, etc.). This award will be given to those PTAs with at least twenty-five (25) members from the community. Parents who serve in community positions are excluded from this count.

**Early Bird Award** – An award will be given to each local PTA submitting an application form and payment of state and national dues for 100% membership or any amount over last year's membership (See the Celebrate Membership Award criteria for details on 100% membership. Note that if the total school population decreases, total membership may be less than last year but still achieve 100% membership as calculated.). Due dates for each award are as follows:

- **Golden Early Bird Award** - Dues must be paid and received in the Florida PTA Office on or before October 1.
- **Silver Early Bird Award** - Dues must be paid and received in the Florida PTA Office on or before November 1.
- **Bronze Early Bird Award** - Dues must be paid and received in the Florida PTA Office on or before December 1

**Grandparent Silver or Gold Membership Award** – PTAs that recruit ten to twenty-four (24) members who are grandparents of students attending the school applying for the award will receive a Grandparent Silver Membership Award. Those PTAs with twenty-five (25) or more grandparent members will receive the Grandparent Gold Membership Award.

**Our Founders Care Award** – Any local unit with five (5) of its own past presidents as current members is eligible for this award.

**Spotlight on Men Award** – This award will be presented to local units who focus on engaging fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, mentors, business partners, etc. Local units that increase their male membership by twenty-five (25) members are eligible for this award.

**Volunteer Award** -This award recognizes PTA volunteer activities and will be given to the PTA units who report PTA volunteer hours equal to twice the number of their school enrollment.

**No applications are required for the following Membership Awards:**

**President’s Membership Award** – This award will be presented to one (1) Elementary or K-8 and one (1) Middle or High PTA/PTSA that earns Local Unit Achievement Award this year AND shows the highest percentage increase in individual memberships over the previous year. (NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)

**Membership Plus Award** – This award will be given to one (1) Elementary or K-8 and one (1) Middle or High PTA/PTSA that has shown the highest percentage increase in individual memberships over the previous year. This is the only membership award that will be given with a cash prize of twenty-five dollars (\$25). (NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)

**Certificates will be awarded to those local PTAs that achieve any of the following:**

1. An increase in membership by at least 25% over the previous year. (NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)
2. The highest percentage increase in membership over the previous year. One (1) Elementary or K-8 and one (1) Middle or High School PTA/PTSA will be awarded. (NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)
3. Membership of 1,000 or more members. (NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)
4. Has attained 100% membership for the last four years or more. (NO APPLICATION REQUIRED)

### **Special Membership Incentive Awards**

*Every year the Membership Committee offers Special Incentive Awards to reward increased local unit memberships. Information will be communicated to local units when published.*

## The National PTA Awards Program

National PTA also offers numerous award and grant programs for local units. Please visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for details about awards, applications, and deadlines.

### Tips to put your PTA Awards Application on TOP!

1. Consider appointing an Awards Chair to the board, and make sure they receive all the relevant information needed to become familiar with all awards that are offered, due dates, and application.
2. Read carefully and follow all directions. Some applications will be rejected if directions are not followed.
3. Assure compliance to be eligible for awards before completing applications.
4. Consider writing answers to prompts on another document, then pasting them into the application form where appropriate.
5. Fill in all blanks completely. Contact the FLPTA state office to confirm information or contact the Awards Chair to clarify any questions.
6. Pay special attention to page or word limits.
7. Please provide the correct full local unit PTA name as it is listed on your approved Bylaws (no abbreviations)
8. Give an appropriate title for all awards.
9. Describe how the program promotes PTA mission and purpose. Consider referring to the National PTA Standards for Parent/Family Involvement.
10. Share everything your local unit has done. Do not think that any activity is unimportant.
11. Explain everything in the most brief and simple terms.
12. Submit any relevant photos or supporting documents.
13. Include all requested application information.
14. REMEMBER DEADLINES! Late applications will not be accepted.
15. Start at the beginning of the year and keep a history or record of everything your PTA does. This will make it much easier to complete award applications at the end of the year. You may discover that your PTA did much more during the year than you realized!
16. Be creative and submit your applications after an event is completed; and don't miss the **May 1<sup>st</sup>** deadline!

### Your PTA/PTSA can create its own unique awards!

Consider developing Awards to recognize groups or individuals in your own community. It is an opportunity to increase awareness of PTA and PTA programs in the school community and may have a positive impact on PTA membership or participation. It does not necessarily require a large expense. It is an opportunity to highlight events or individuals and is a great way to say thank you!

**Consider adding an Awards Chair and Awards Committee to the board to support this effort!**