



2025 TRANSCAER Awards Program Protocol

Nominations can be submitted online beginning December 15, 2025, until March 13, 2026* for recognition of TRANSCAER efforts in 2025.

**Note: Nominations for Individual Recognition will remain open all of 2025 until March 13, 2026. This allows you to recognize individuals throughout the year. The Awards Committee does not meet to review applications until late March of 2026 so if the nomination is approved the recipient does not receive their award until the following year.*

Purpose

The TRANSCAER® awards program is designed to:

- Recognize the achievements of individuals, companies, and organizations that have gone beyond the normal call of duty to advocate, demonstrate, and implement the principles of TRANSCAER;
- Enhance the public recognition of TRANSCAER; and
- Increase participation in TRANSCAER initiatives.

Award Descriptions & Criteria (listed in order of seniority)

1. TRANSCAER Distinguished Service Award

The TRANSCAER Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of exceptionally meritorious service to the public in a TRANSCAER capacity. This award honors individuals, companies, or organizations whose sustained and impactful contributions have significantly advanced the mission of TRANSCAER.

Contributions may include organizing major events, developing new training tools, expanding national reach, or mentoring others within the program.

Nomination packets must include a 1000-word (maximum) essay describing the nominee's accomplishments during his/her tenure with TRANSCAER. Supporting materials such as testimonials, letters of support, media coverage, or program metrics are encouraged.

Multiple awards may be given annually to recognize diverse forms of exceptional service. This is TRANSCAER's most prestigious award.

Self-nominations are not accepted for the TRANSCAER Distinguished Service Award.

Any subsequent TRANSCAER Distinguished Service Award to the same individual, company, or organization must be justified with service that significantly surpasses the service rendered for the previous award.

The recipient of the Distinguished Service Award will be recognized at the venue of their choice with an award presentation.

2. Chairman's Award

The Chairman's Award is designed to honor individuals who have gone above and beyond in advocating, demonstrating, and implementing the principles of TRANSCAER. It is reserved for those whose efforts significantly enhance emergency preparedness and community safety related to hazardous materials transportation.

The TRANSCAER Chairman's Award is given by and at the discretion of the TRANSCAER Chairman based on any criteria deemed appropriate by the Chairman.

Self-nominations are not accepted for the TRANSCAER Chairman's Award. The Chairman selects the final recipients; however, nominations may come from the TRANSCAER Awards Committee or the TRANSCAER Director.

There is no limitation on the number of awards given in any year.

3. Outstanding Community Safety Partnership Award

This *Outstanding Community Safety Partnership Award* is given in recognition of a fire department's achievement in the hazmat preparedness and community safety within their community.

The eligibility criteria were established so that the fire departments recognized by TRANSCAER are not only meeting but exceeding standard practices in hazmat safety and response, reflecting their dedication to protecting their communities. The fire department does not have to achieve all items listed under the eligibility criteria to receive an award. The departments receiving the excellent ratings as determined by the Awards Committee will receive an award.

The areas of criteria for the *Outstanding Community Safety Partnership Award* are as follows:

Training and Education

- Demonstration of continuous education and training in hazardous materials management and emergency response by the fire department. {Rating 3}.

Community Engagement

- Active participation in community outreach programs to educate the public about hazmat safety and emergency procedures. {Rating 3}.

- Collaboration with local businesses, schools, and other organizations to promote hazmat awareness and preparedness. {Rating 3}.

Incident Response

- Exemplary performance in responding to hazardous materials incidents, including successful containment and mitigation by the department. {Rating 5}.
- Documentation of innovative response strategies and successful outcomes in past incidents. {Rating 5}.

Collaboration and Partnership

- Strong partnerships with other emergency services, local government, and industry stakeholders in managing hazmat situations. {Rating 3}.
- Participation in TRANSCAER training, drills, exercises, and workshops to improve coordination and response capabilities. {Rating 4}.

Leadership and Innovation

- Demonstration of leadership in advancing hazmat response techniques and technologies. {Rating 4}.
- Implementation of innovative practices or programs that improve overall hazmat safety and response. {Rating 5}.

The highest possible rating is 35, where the department details their achievements and contributions to each category of eligibility criteria and provided examples of each.

There is no limitation as to the number of awards that may be given in any one year, however, it is expected that this award will be for such exceptional service that its issuance will be infrequent.

4. Torch Award

To be given to a TRANSCAER Team Member who has actively dedicated a portion of their professional career to the TRANSCAER mission, but are either retiring, transitioning to a new role or industry, or concluding their active involvement with TRANSCAER for any reason.

Each nominee will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Nominee has made a major contribution or has achieved significant accomplishments in TRANSCAER at the State, Regional (geographical regions) and National level. Contributions may

- include event planning, training delivery, resource development, or community engagement.
2. Nominee must have contributed meaningfully to TRANSCAER at the state, regional, or national level for at least 5 years.
 3. The selection of the TRANSCAER Torch Award recipient will be determined through a nationwide nomination process. The recipient of the TRANSCAER Torch Award will be recognized at their venue of choice with an award presentation.
 4. Nomination packets must include a 500-word (maximum) nomination letter describing the nominee's accomplishments during his/her tenure with TRANSCAER. Supporting materials such as letters of appreciation, photos, or program outcomes are encouraged.

Self-nominations are not accepted for the TRANSCAER Torch Award.

Multiple Torch Awards may be given annually to recognize the diverse paths and contributions of TRANSCAER volunteers.

5. National Achievement Award

The National Achievement Award is given in recognition of extraordinary achievement by an individual person, individual company, individual organization, or a team (of individuals, companies, or organizations) in support of TRANSCAER initiatives extending beyond the geographic boundaries of any one region.

The minimum eligibility criteria for the award are as follows:

1. Activities must have been billed or co-billed as TRANSCAER activities;
2. Nominations must show documented evidence that the efforts for which the nomination is made resulted in the delivery of TRANSCAER tools to new audiences in multiple regions OR the efforts resulted in recruitment of new TRANSCAER membership/participation in more than one region;
3. Activities helped foster better local cooperation and/or coordination so that potential future emergencies will likely go smoother because of the training. There must be positive impact to the community, emergency responders, industry, and/or TRANSCAER;
4. The nominee's actions must be consistent with the principles of TRANSCAER;
5. Selection of a recipient for the National TRANSCAER Achievement Award shall be supported by no less than 75% of the members of the TRANSCAER Award Committee eligible to vote.

There is no limitation on the number of awards given in any year.

Only one form along with two attachments may be submitted for the National Achievement award. Do not submit individual sign-in sheets or emails as proof of meeting award criteria. The TRANSCAER Awards Committee will not review these.

6. Regional Achievement Award

The Regional Achievement Award is given in recognition of extraordinary achievement by an individual person, individual company, individual organization, or a team (of individuals, companies, or organizations) in support of the TRANSCAER initiatives throughout at least one geographical region of the United States.

The minimum eligibility criteria for the award are as follows:

1. Activities must have been billed or co-billed as TRANSCAER activities;
2. Nominations must show documented evidence that the efforts for which the nomination is made resulted in the delivery of TRANSCAER tools to new audiences in multiple geographic locations within a region OR the efforts resulted in recruitment of new TRANSCAER membership/participation in multiple locations within a geographic region;
3. Activities helped foster better cooperation and/or coordination with one geographical region so that potential future emergencies will likely go smoother because of the training. There must be positive impact to the community, emergency responders, industry, and/or TRANSCAER;
4. The nominee's actions must be consistent with the principles of TRANSCAER;
5. Selection of a recipient for the TRANSCAER Regional Achievement Award shall be supported by no less than 75% of the members of the TRANSCAER Award Committee eligible to vote.

There is no limitation on the number of awards given in any year.

Only one form along with two attachments may be submitted for the Regional Achievement award. Do not submit individual sign-in sheets or emails as proof of meeting award criteria. The TRANSCAER Awards Committee will not review these.

7. Individual Recognition Award

The Individual Recognition Award recognizes the special effort of any individual, team, company, or other organization in advancing the principles of TRANSCAER. The efforts for which the recipient(s) is (are) nominated need not be billed as TRANSCAER activities but must be consistent with the principles and objectives of TRANSCAER.

On the nomination form please describe how this achievement went above and beyond standard job duties by how it impacted a community, emergency responders, industry and/or the TRANSCAER Program.

Criteria that meet the above and beyond standard job duties includes:

- Participating, collaborating, or assisting on TRANSCAER events
- Volunteers and then actively participates on a TRANSCAER Task Group that is developing a new resource (i.e. training curriculum, videos, etc.), hosting webinars, or another TRANSCAER program related project.

An individual nomination form must be received for each nominee. Do NOT attach a list of names with your national or regional award submission.

Nominations for any individual, team, company, or other organization for an Individual Recognition Award may be made by the TRANSCAER Executive Committee, TRANSCAER Sponsor or Partner, ACC Members, Other NTTG Members, TRANSCAER State Coordinators, or by the Chair of the National TRANSCAER Task Group.

There is no limitation on the number of awards given in any year.

8. Coordinator of the Year Award

The Coordinator of the Year Award recognizes the special effort of a TRANSCAER State Coordinator who has advanced the principles of TRANSCAER. The efforts for which the recipient is nominated need to be activities that are billed as TRANSCAER activities, but the nomination may also include other supporting activities that are consistent with the principles and objectives of TRANSCAER.

Each nominee will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Nominee has made a major contribution or has achieved significant accomplishments in their state, a geographical region, and/or at the national level.
2. Nominee has been engaged in planning, organizing, and supporting TRANSCAER events within the past year.
3. Nominee has demonstrated superior dedication to the TRANSCAER Coordinator Program.

Self-nominations are not accepted for this award. Nominations for Coordinator of the Year may be submitted by a fellow coordinator or an NTTG member.

The Coordinator of the Year Award will be selected by the Awards Committee upon review of the nominations submitted.

Only one award will be presented for the Coordinator of the Year Award each year.

AWARDS REVIEW PROCESS

Awards Committee

The TRANSCAER Awards Committee will be comprised of three (3) Sponsor representatives and three (3) NTTG members. TRANSCAER will seek volunteers at the December NTTG meeting each year. The final awards list will be sent to all Sponsors upon approval of the Awards Committee.

Awards Committee members must abstain on their ballot for any award category in which they are nominated, or their company, or an individual from their company is nominated.

Timetable for Implementation

<i>Action</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Disseminate Award Forms/Packages	Forms ONLINE – December 15, 2025
Closing/Deadline for Award Nominations <i>(including the submission of the TRANSCAER Outreach and Engagement State Coordinator Survey)</i>	By COB on March 13, 2026
Distribute nominations to the Awards Committee for review	Week of March 30-April 3, 2026
Awards Committee Review & Recipients Selected	Week of April 6-10, 2026
Notify Recipients	By April 24, 2026
Coordinate Award Presentations	At the Recipients Discretion
Announce Recipients	Following final award presentation

Award Nomination, Review and Selection Process

Eligibility and nomination criteria for TRANSCAER awards vary depending on the level of award as detailed in the section titled “Awards Descriptions and Criteria.” However, all award nominations must be submitted online except for the Chairman’s Award. Only those award nominations that are, in the judgment of the National TRANSCAER Director, complete and meet the administrative requirements for the award will be forwarded to the TRANSCAER Awards Committee. The Director will make no determination as to the merit of the award nomination during this administrative review for completeness.

Self-nominations will not be accepted for Distinguished Service Award, Chair's Award, or Torch Award.

Additional supporting materials are encouraged, and must be attached with the online nomination form, and must be in a format that can be easily copied and distributed to the TRANSCAER Awards Committee. ***Copies of emails with event coordination details will not be accepted as supporting materials.***

The selection of award recipients is within the sole discretion of the Award's Committee and is not subject to outside review.

Award Presentations

Distinguished Service Awards, National Achievement Awards and the Torch Award will be presented, if possible, by a member of the Executive Committee at a place within the continental US chosen by the recipient.

Regional Achievement Awards will be presented, if possible, by a member of the Executive Committee at a National TRANSCAER Task Group Meeting.

Outstanding Community Safety Partnership Awards will be presented by a member of the Executive Committee at the fire department.

Individual Recognition Awards will be mailed directly to the recipients.* The individual recognition challenge coin will be mailed by TRANSCAER.

**If more than 5 people are nominated from the same organization one package of challenge coins will be mailed for the organization to distribute the coins.*

TRANSCAER does not issue printed certificates for the Individual Recognition Awards.

Chair's Awards will be made in-person, if possible, by the National TRANSCAER Task Group Chair at a venue within the continental US mutually agreed to by the award recipient and the Chair.

Coordinator of the Year Award will be mailed directly to the recipient, or if possible, a presentation will be made in person by a member of the NTTG or Executive Committee.

TRANSCAER awards given to groups of individuals will consist of one formal award given to the entire group.

Additional Questions

If you have additional questions regarding the TRANSCAER Awards Protocol, please email transcaer@chemtrec.com.