

2019 Freedom Fund Awards

Award Descriptions and Criteria



NAACP
East Valley Branch

The East Valley NAACP is pleased to open nominations for our community awards to recognize local leaders that are making an impact to improve the lives of others. Each of our awards align with the mission and initiatives of the NAACP and named after change agents from our past and our present that epitomize the principles of the NAACP. We are asking you to nominate persons, organizations, or businesses that are working to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons.

Nomination Process

- Nominations will be accepted from June 1 – July 31, 2019.
- All entries must be submitted through our online nomination form on our branch website at www.evnaacp.org by 12 midnight on July 31, 2019.
- The three (3) best entries for the youth and general awards will be formally announced at our branch meeting on August 17, 2019. Formal written notification will also be provided.
- Nominees will receive a free VIP ticket to the Freedom Fund Awards on October 12, 2019.
- Signature awardees will be selected and announced on August 17, 2019 and will also receive a free VIP ticket to the Freedom Fund Awards on October 12, 2019.

Award Criteria

- Nominees must live or work in the East Valley or their work must impact communities in the East Valley. The East Valley includes Ahwatukee, Apache Junction, Chandler, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Guadalupe, Mesa, Scottsdale, Tempe, Queen Creek.
- Nominees are not required to be members of the NAACP and NAACP members are eligible to be nominated.
- Self-nominations will be accepted.
- Information submitted for the award category must be current within the past two (2) years to demonstrate recent work in that category.
- Nominees for the Youth Awards must be under the age of 25.
- Submissions must include responses to the following:
 - Describe the work the nominee has done in the award category within the past two (2) years and its impact on the intended audience. (500 words or less)
 - How does the nominee exhibit the characteristics of or relates to the person the award is named after? (200 words or less)
 - How can the work of the nominee further the mission of the NAACP as we continue to address social justice issues? (300 words or less)

Signature Awards

- **Roy Wilkins Humanitarian Award** recognizes an individual or group that has shown exemplary dedication to the welfare of our community through social service and philanthropic efforts.
- **Thurgood Marshall Award for Justice** acknowledges an individual or group who has demonstrated excellence in fighting for justice and legal equity to uplift our community.
- **W.E.B. DuBois Founders Award** recognizes a member of the NAACP that has exhibited exceptional service to branch operations in fulfillment of the NAACP mission. This award is selected by the Branch President, so nominations are not open.

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Youth Awards (must be under the age of 25)

- **Sophie Cruz Youth Activist Award** recognizes a child, youth, teen, or young adult who is making strides to uplift his/her community through exemplary leadership and innovation.
- **Next Generation Change Agents Award** recognizes a group of young individuals who are working together to affect positive change in their communities (Black Student Unions, community or religious-based groups, etc.).

General Awards

- **Barack Obama Award for Political Leadership** recognizes an individual who uses their political platform to fight for an equitable society through legislation and policy-making or executive implementation of equitable practices in government.
- **Bass Reeves First Responder Award** recognizes an individual, team or group that displayed various acts of heroism and valor in protecting and saving a life beyond the call of duty.
- **Caesar Chavez Award for Workforce Diversity** recognizes an individual or business who has demonstrated dedication to ensuring individuals from different cultures are valued with their voices heard within a business, corporate, or entrepreneurial environment.
- **Dr. Martin Luther King Award for Religious Leadership** recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exemplary service to the community through spiritual leadership and care.
- **Fannie Lou Hamer Award for Voting Rights and Access** recognizes an individual or group that has shown exemplary leadership and service in the fight for voting rights and/or in educating the community about the voting process and mobilizing voters to the polls.
- **Ida B. Wells Award for Journalistic Courage** recognizes a reporter, news caster, or media outlet that has courageously covered social justice issues in the Valley to bring about positive change.
- **Malala Yousafzai Award for Education Equity** recognizes a local school, educator, administrator, or group that has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring equality in the classroom for students and/or educators.
- **Navajo Code Talker Award for Veteran Support** recognizes an individual or group who has demonstrated exemplary service to the community of active military personnel, veterans and families.

Nominations must be submitted through our website at www.evnaacp.org by midnight on **July 31, 2019**.

If you experience technical challenges or have a question about the award criteria or process, please email us at freedomfund@evnaacp.org.

We look forward to reviewing your nominations. Good luck!