



National Awards Overview

For Chapters

*This document contains the 2020 revised criteria for all National Awards and links to the online applications. Questions may be directed to awards@thetaphialpha.org. All applications are available and due online at <http://www.thetaphialpha.org/awards-forms> by **April 30, 2020**.*

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Additional information about each award can be found on the [Theta Phi Alpha - Awards Form](#) website, in the National Awards Overview Documents section.

Purpose of and Changes to Annual and National Awards

Theta Phi Alpha Fraternity has a long-standing tradition of honoring chapters, alumnae associations and individuals for excellence in programming and contributions to our organization. Some awards do not require an application and are based on reports you already provide throughout the biennium.

The Annual Awards began in 2015 as a “Virtual” awards event where certain report based awards were selected to be given each year (based on the previous full academic year) for several reasons. First, to increase the number of sisters receiving certain awards, second, this event allows for those engaged in one particular academic year of the biennium to receive timely recognition, and third, to motivate new officers and new members by providing enhanced opportunities for recognition. Winners of the Annual Awards may choose to receive one of the following (upon request): a \$25 gift card to the Penguin Shoppe, or to have a \$25 donation made in their honor to the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation.

The Board of Trustees will now be coordinating the [Compass Points Alumnae Recognition Awards](#). Ongoing nominations may be made via an online form. Multiple winners can be recognized in each of the four award categories given twice per year (fall and spring) with deadlines to nominate on February 15th and September 15th each year. The dates may change based on the calendar or number of nominations received.

All other National Awards are determined by the Board of Trustees and awarded at each National Convention.

Additional information about each award can be found on the [Theta Phi Alpha - Awards Form](#) website, in the National Awards Overview Documents section.

How to Win Awards & Instructions

1. Each fall you should start to plan to apply for National Awards! The National Awards applications are due electronically by April 30th of the Convention year. By planning now you will have the documentation and reports to complete the applications and nominations as needed.
2. Designate one officer to oversee the award process. This officer will ensure that the required information is correctly submitted.
3. Submit your required reports and programs to the National Office. Many awards (including all chapter annual awards) do not require an application/nomination and are based on reports and programs already submitted by the association. Make sure to set up an e-mail folder of completed reports.
4. Review the award descriptions found in this overview. Each award description contains the report(s) or criteria used to determine the award winner. Awards that require an application or a nomination have the required criteria/reports listed on the applicable form. All timely applications/nominations with any required supporting documentation will be considered for those in good standing with the Fraternity.
5. Complete award application and nomination forms utilizing the links found on Theta Phi Alpha's website at www.thetaphialpha.org/awards-forms. Double check to ensure you have attached all required information –sometimes supporting documentation, essays or recommendation forms need to be submitted separately from your main application/nomination. If an application requires you to provide a website name or Facebook page, please do not just cut and paste the URL. We need the exact name of the website, i.e., www.Thetaphialpha.org, to be able to view your website. For Facebook pages, please list the page name, for instance, XYZ Chapter and provide contact information so a Board of Trustees member may be added to closed pages.
8. Please direct any questions about this process to the Board of Trustees member who is overseeing awards for the 2016-2018 biennium. Email address is awards@thetaphialpha.org

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Circle of Excellence Award Criteria

There are many criteria considered when awarding The Circle of Excellence but the most important is the Chapter Standards of Achievement. If a chapter attains the highest Chapter Standards of Achievement then they are a strong candidate for The Circle of Excellence; if a chapter is struggling to achieve the Chapter Standards of Achievement then they likely will not be considered. [Applications, recommendation forms and ritual essays are all required to be considered.](#)

Highest consideration for Circle of Excellence Award will be given to chapters who:

- Have been installed as a chapter for the entire biennium
- Earned at least 17 pearls for each year of the biennium
- Earned at least 85% of cooperation points
- Have submitted all required recommendation forms

Academic Excellence

- Submit and receive approval of Academic Excellence Program
- Minimum chapter Grade Point Average of 3.0

Alumnae Involvement

- Evidence of contact with area/chapter alumnae
- Chapter Advisory Board meets a minimum of six times per academic year (if applicable)

Campus Involvement

- Represented on the campus College Panhellenic/Fraternity/Sorority Council (if applicable)
- Sponsor/co-sponsor or attend a minimum of one campus education program during the biennium
- Members are involved in other campus organization/activity

Community Service

- Minimum of two community service projects each academic year with majority chapter participation, one of which benefits The House That Theta Phi Alpha Built
- Community Service projects cannot be the same projects used for Philanthropy projects

Cooperation with National Theta Phi Alpha

- Earn a minimum of 85% of total Cooperation Points for the biennium
- Earn a minimum of 17 pearls on the National Standards of Achievement for each year of the biennium
- Adherence to all National Policies, the National Constitution and Bylaws, campus policies and local/state/federal laws
- Not involved in campus discipline procedures
- Represented at the previous National Convention
- Represented at Theta Phi Day (and other regional conferences, Officer Leadership Training, etc.)
- Successful LC visit (if applicable)
- Chapter Bylaws are current

Continued Circle of Excellence Award Criteria

Sisterhood

- Include sisterhood and social events on the chapter calendar

Contribution to National Organization

- Support extension and colonization in geographic area (when applicable)
- Assist with Theta Phi Day and other project/activities (when applicable)

Financial

- Utilized Billhighway financial system for the entire biennium
- Operated under a budget
- Timely payment of fees
- No outstanding debts to the Fraternity
- Members current on their dues

Fundraising

- Hold a minimum of two fundraising activities each year with majority chapter participation

Membership

- Utilized *My Sister, My Friend* with new members
- 90% new member initiation rate
- No recruitment fines for membership being less than 25 or campus total whichever is greater

Philanthropy

- Hold a minimum of two philanthropic projects each academic year with majority chapter participation, one of which benefits The House That Theta Phi Alpha Built
- Philanthropy projects cannot be the same projects used for Community Service projects

Publicity

- Positive publicity of recruitment and events on campus
- Maintain a positive social media presence
- Submit articles and information for *The Compass*

Recruitment

- Submit and receive approval of Recruitment Program
- Participate in recruitment every semester your chapter is below campus total

National Policies and Risk Management

- Review Chapter Emergency Procedures and National Policies with membership each term
- Sponsor or participate in a program each academic year to educate collegians in the responsible use of alcohol

Continued Circle of Excellence Award Criteria

Ritual

- Utilize and maintain proper ritual equipment and attire
- Explain through a one page essay from six different chapter members, three of whom are executive board members, on how Theta Phi Alpha ritual guides the chapter and how ritual is represented in non-ritual chapter activities

Theta Phi Alpha Foundation

- Host or attend a Founders' Day Celebration each year
- Contribute monetarily to the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation each year

Recommendation Letters

- One Self Recommendation letter approved by six chapter sisters, three of whom are on the executive board
- Campus Official who oversees the Fraternity/Sorority Community
- Chapter Advisor; if no Advisory Board, your Conference Director