



**Governor's
Awards &
Certificates of Achievement,
Congratulations, Special Recognitions**

2026

Order of the Palmetto

Established by Governor John C. West in 1971, the Order of the Palmetto is the State of South Carolina's highest honor. It is presented in recognition of a lifetime of extraordinary achievement, service, and contributions on a national or statewide scale. The Order of the Palmetto recognizes individuals who have selflessly given of their time, resources and goodwill through a variety of different causes and pursuits to the benefit of their neighbors, fellow citizens and the fabric and prosperity of South Carolina. Business, political or personal accomplishment may be important factors, but noble works for others mark the true purpose.

- Only adult residents or natives of South Carolina are eligible for consideration.
- An individual must be formally nominated in writing.
- This is a once in a lifetime award. It cannot be awarded posthumously.

Order of the Silver Crescent

The Order of the Silver Crescent was created by Governor David Beasley in 1997 and subsequently modified by Governor Jim Hodges. It was specifically established as the State of South Carolina's most prestigious service award. It recognizes a remarkable achievement or action, an individual's dedicated community service or volunteerism.

- Any resident or native of South Carolina is eligible for consideration.
- An individual must be formally nominated in writing.
- This award cannot be presented posthumously.
- Note to nominator: The Order of the Silver Crescent requirements reflect those of the Order of the Palmetto, but do not require statewide or national impact.

Honorary Sandlapper

- This award is given at the discretion of Governor McMaster.
- Nominations will not be accepted.

Official Certificates

Governor Nikki Haley began the practice of presenting official certificates of appreciation, congratulations, recognition, and acknowledgement to individuals or organizations in South Carolina.

Requirements

Nomination applications are reviewed and screened by a committee selected by the governor. Based on the information submitted, the committee determines whether to submit the nomination application to the governor for consideration.

1. The nomination application form **MUST** be fully completed.

The nominee's social security number must be included on the application form so that a criminal background check may be conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division at the request of the Governor's Office.

Omissions or items left blank are considered incomplete. Incomplete nomination applications will not be considered.

2. A written and detailed biographical summary along with a photograph of the nominee **MUST** be included.

This should detail the nominee's accomplishments with specific details and examples using clear, concise, descriptive language. Include time periods of memberships, leadership roles, and professional and personal achievements. Materials supporting the nominee's achievements may also be submitted, including professional articles, press clippings, etc.

In addition, information concerning location of birth, family, education, and other personal information is welcomed and encouraged.

3. A minimum of **TWO** signed and dated letters of recommendation must be included.

These letters should be from an individual, friend, colleague, associate or a group that can attest to the nominee's character, accomplishments, and contributions to the people of South Carolina. More than two letters are welcomed.

4. In addition, a letter of endorsement from **ONE** of the following must be included.

- A. A current member of the South Carolina General Assembly.

- B. A current member of South Carolina's Congressional Delegation.
- C. A current State Constitutional Officer.

5. All letters of recommendation or endorsement must be addressed to:

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor
South Carolina Statehouse
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

6. Nomination applications must be delivered to the Governor's Office via hand delivery, United States Postal Service mail, or by an overnight delivery service. Emails or facsimiles will not be accepted.

Receipt of completed applications will be acknowledged via phone or email. The nominator will be notified when a decision on an application is final.

7. Questions concerning Governor's Awards may be directed to the attention of:

Ms. Rebecca Grace Barr
Special Assistant to the Governor
Phone: 803-348-3597
Email: rgbarr@governor.sc.gov

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2026 Nomination Application

Date of Submission: _____

Nominee Information

Full Name: _____

Name as it is to appear on Award: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number: _____

_____ **Order of the Palmetto**

_____ **Order of the Silver Crescent**

_____ **Certificate of Appreciation**

_____ **Other**

Nominator's Information

Full Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Requested Presentation Date _____

SEND TO: Rebecca Grace Barr, Special Assistant to the Governor
Phone: 803-348-3597 Email: rgbarr@governor.sc.gov