



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

**2023**

## **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 civilian 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.

# Guidelines

Nomination applications will be reviewed by a nominations committee selected by the governor. The nomination committee makes recommendations to the governor. The following guidelines must be followed.

1. Nomination application must be fully completed with accurate contact information included. Incomplete applications will be returned.
2. Staff Contact: Caroline McKissick, Special Assistant to the Governor, Phone: 803-724-8757 Email: [cmckissick@governor.sc.gov](mailto:cmckissick@governor.sc.gov)
3. A criminal background check will be conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Department.
4. Completed applications must be delivered via hand, mail, or delivery service.
5. Emails or facsimiles will not be accepted.
6. Receipt of completed applications will be acknowledged via mail and the nominator will be notified when a decision on an application is final.
7. A written and detailed biographical summary must be included detailing 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.
8. Nomination applications must include, but are not limited to, a minimum of two letters of recommendation attesting to the nominee's character, accomplishments, and contributions to the people of South Carolina:
  - One from a member of the South Carolina General Assembly, our Congressional Delegation or a State Constitutional Officer.
  - One from an individual, friend, colleague, associate or a group of same.
  - Additional letters are welcomed.
9. All letters of recommendation should be addressed to:

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

# 2023 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:** Caroline McKissick, Special Assistant to the Governor  
Phone: 803-724-8757 Email: cmckissick@governor.sc.gov