



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

PSPSA 2025 MERITORIOUS SERVICE PEER SUPPORT TEAM AWARD (HONORED AT THE 2026 10TH ANNUAL

The PSPSA Meritorious Service Team Award is awarded to a First Responder Peer Support Team for their diligence and perseverance in serving others, and whose service is above what is normally required or expected of a Peer Support Team. Peer Support Team Candidates will be selected based upon nominations and how well they meet the spirit of the award criteria for meritorious service.

The awards committee looks forward to the challenge of selecting a team recipient for the PSPSA 2025 Meritorious Service Team Award. Please share and submit your nominations of Peer Support Teams in accordance with the award criteria to the PSPSA Awards Committee by submitting your nominations **before the deadline of October 5, 2026.**

Award Criteria

The PSPSA Meritorious Service Team Award is awarded to a Team that will be selected in accordance with the following award criteria, and based upon the degree of meritorious service and excellence demonstrated by the Team's actions for calendar year 2025 (January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025):

- To a Team for their diligence and perseverance in serving others, and whose service is above what is normally required or expected of a Peer Support Team;
- To a Team who contributed significantly to the mission, advancement, and good works of Peer Support during the 2025 calendar year;



- To a Team whose conduct brings significant credit and achieves significant accomplishment for the betterment of Peer Support which may occur through exemplary performance in difficult or adverse unique situations, through the demonstration of exemplary performance in a significant event, or where the Team demonstrates exemplary service in support of advancing the continued development of a Peer Support Program.

Strong nominees may also exhibit several of the characteristics listed below:

Excellence in...Service: An effective Team works commendably with others to support another or group towards wellness in addressing personal or professional crises, or in the case of a critical incident. This Team may demonstrate excellence and merit in the following ways:

- Exhibited notable, unusual courage or competence in response to a critical incident emergency, resulting in direct benefit to First Responders, families, and/or communities;
- Rendered peer support and service of a unique or distinctive character;
- Ethically and responsibly served others, demonstrating a desire to assist others towards wellness without need for personal gain or recognition;
- Accomplished Peer Support in an exemplary manner, and inspired others towards wellness;
- A team made a notable contribution to their agency, family, and/or community demonstrating the highest level of excellence and commitment;
- Established effective partnerships across multiple levels of the organization in support of furthering the mission of peer support for first responders.



Excellence in...Commitment: A deeply committed Team demonstrates a dedication to their work, which in turn contributes to the support of the First Responder community. This quality manifests itself when the Team:

- Demonstrates an intense commitment to provide excellent service to peers;
- Shares and demonstrates enthusiasm for the mission of peer support and whose performance aligns with the mission of PSPSA;
- Maintains perseverance in the face of adversity;
- Is known in the agency and/or community as a reliable, willing team of good citizens who enrich the lives of those they touch.

Excellence in...Leadership: A strong Team demonstrates a unique ability to support, guide, inspire, and serve others. Teams may make evident, strong leadership and service in the following ways:

- Builds strong relationships that support a high level of trust and credibility;
- Inspires and encourages personal and professional development in others;
- Contributes to the success of a Peer Support initiative that benefits those inside/outside their own department and/or places emphasis on collaboration within and among departments and/or community.

Eligibility & Guidelines:

The award is targeted for First Responder Peer Support Teams who have demonstrated meritorious service in the course of serving others in a peer support capacity, either as a result of an incident or in which



their performance as a whole is considered meritorious and in accordance with the award criteria.

- Any First Responder Peer Support Team is eligible to be nominated.
- A Team may be nominated, for example, by an agency department head, chief, a recipient of peer support services, a mental health professional familiar with the team, a member of the peer support community, etc.
- Please carefully review the award criteria and note it is not required for a team to meet every criterion point or characteristic to be eligible for this award.
- The nomination must have support from the agency Department Head/Chief, and contact information must be provided, along with contact information of the individual nominating the team.

The Nomination Process

Please complete the PSPSA Meritorious Service Team Award Cover Sheet, as well as the PSPSA Meritorious Service Team Award Nomination Justification form.

- The Nomination Justification narrative should be concise but include specific information describing contributions of the peer support team.
- Please limit your Nomination Justification submission to no more than two (2) pages. **Be sure to connect your nomination to the Award Criteria.**
- In addition to the Cover Sheet and Nomination Justification form, up to two (2) letters of support may be submitted but are not required. Letters of support should serve to provide additional specific information to substantiate the nomination and may serve to enhance and further validate the nomination.



- All materials submitted will be kept confidential and become the property of PSPSA.
- Please submit all nomination materials by e-mail only, to Anna Bell, President at president@pspsa.org .

Tips for writing your nomination:

- On the Nomination Justification form, give specific examples and validation demonstrating what the peer support team has done to meet the award criteria.
- Please include the date and/or timeframe, along with brief details of the specific incident in which peer support services were provided or action occurred.
- What did the team do, and How did they do it? And importantly, what were the impacts of these actions?
- No nominee is expected to fulfill all possible criteria.
- Please limit the Nomination Justification to no more than two (2) pages.
- Please limit any letter of support to no more than one (1) page.
- Please ensure the team nomination is endorsed by the Peer Support Team Agency Department Head/Chief.

Recipient Selection

The PSPSA Award Selection Committee will select a Team Award recipient. The selection will be based exclusively on nomination documents submitted.

- Any PSPSA Award Selection Committee member who may be a member of a nominated team will be excused from the award committee for that year in which the conflict exists.
- Any member of the PSPSA Award Selection Committee who may nominate a Team for an award must be excused from



the award committee for that year in which the conflict exists.

Notification/Acknowledgment of Award Recipient

Notification of the Peer Support Team to be honored will be made to the Agency Head/Chief, and the individual who nominated the team.

Additionally, the Team receiving the PSPSA 2025 Meritorious Service Team Award will be announced, recognized, and honored at the PSPSA Wellness on the Frontline 2026 Conference in San Diego California on Thursday, October 29, 2026.

Submission Requirements

- Cover Sheet
- Nomination Justification (No more than 2 pages)
- Optional:
 - No more than two (2) letters of support may also be submitted.
- All nomination materials must be submitted by email only by **October 5, 2026**. Please send entries to Anna Bell at president@pspsa.org

Nomination Deadline

All Nominations for the 2025 awards must be received by October 5, 2026.

Need Additional Information?

Please contact Anna Bell PSPSA President, at president@pspsa.org .