

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SC  
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ATTACH  
OFFICIAL  
PHOTOGRAPH

Applications will not be returned

DEPARTMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AWARD

**DUE DATE: No later than March 11, 2027**

Name ----- Sex-----

Home Address-----

City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(, \_ \_) - -

Age \_\_\_\_ Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Service as Law Enforcement Officer-----

Agency Name -----

Agency Director \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone( ) - -

Post Submitting Nomination \_\_\_\_\_

**Post Law and Order Chairperson** -----

**Post Commander Signature** -----

**Post Adjutant Signature** -----

Will not be considered without all the information above completed.

## RULES:

- Be a citizen of the United States, male or female .
- Be a living, active, full-time, and paid, sworn law enforcement officer entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest in South Carolina .
- Consideration for a posthumous award will be acceptable only if the nominee's death has occurred after the post selection and within the dates for which the award is being presented.
- Be assigned to, or fully recognized by, Municipal (City), County, District or State Police (e.g., University Police, etc.) or Highway Patrol, Sheriff's office, or as a sworn Federal law enforcement officer (e.g., FBI or Secret Service Agent, United States Federal Marshal, National Park Police, Bureau of Protective Service, etc.)
- Be assigned to, or fully recognized by, Municipal (City), County, District or State Police (e.g., University Police, etc.) or Highway Patrol, Sheriff's office, or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (e.g., FBI or Secret Service Agent, United States Federal Marshal, National Park Police, Capitol Police, **civilian special agents** (1811s) with AFOSI, Army CID, CGIS, NCIS, and USMC CID etc.)
- Outstanding police action above and beyond the call of duty during the past year.
- nominees are not required to be veterans or members of The American Legion
- Reside and be assigned or attached for duty in South Carolina from a town near which they are selected
- Nominees selected for this award should be available to receive this award at The American Legion National Convention **in 2028**, if selected as the National winner,
- Military police officers or investigators are eligible for participation in this award provided they are state law enforcement certified.
- The Department Law and Order Sub-Committee will select the winner, and their decision will be final.
- All nominations must be received in Department Headquarters by **March 11, 2027**

**Scope:** Americans in recent years have been experiencing an unprecedented crime wave that has permeated all States and neighborhoods in our country, and crime is rapidly becoming America's foremost domestic problem. The Preamble of the American Legion Constitution includes one of its objectives: "to maintain Law and Order." Legionnaires have always fostered a strong sense of law and order as concerned citizens and veterans and have upheld the protection of American citizens and the American way of life. They have always held law enforcement agencies in the highest regard. Many posts and departments already recognize outstanding law enforcement officers of various jurisdictions who serve our communities daily and frequently lay their lives on the line.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this letter of instruction is to specify the guidelines, eligibility criteria, and application requirements for selection and presentation of the "National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award." Our goal is to select a well-rounded Law Enforcement Officer who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected of his/her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. Episodes of heroism will, of course, also be included where noted.

A major secondary purpose of this award is to encourage the further development of the department and post Law and Order & Homeland Security Committees in all departments in recognition of law enforcement officers by posts, departments, and the National Headquarters of The American Legion. It is firmly believed that establishing this award will further serve to promote the public trust and support of our law enforcement agencies.

**Award Designation:** This award shall be known as "The American Legion Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, "If selected as the Department recipient, the winner's name will be forwarded to The American Legion National Headquarters.

- **INCLUSIVE DATES:** The inclusive dates for this award cover the calendar year **January 1, 2026**, until **December 31, 2026**.
- For example, **the Department Law Enforcement winner selected for his/her service for 2027 and recognized at the 2027 Department Convention**, will be sent forward, and if selected as the National winner, will be recognized at the **2028 National Convention**.
- **Departments may submit only one nominee per year, and their nominee must have been the previous year's department award winner.** Once a nominee has been entered in the "The American Legion National Law Enforcement of the Year Award" competition, he or she will not be allowed to be submitted for another year.
- The resume and application for the nominee from each department must conform to the national criteria for judging as contained herein. The eligibility and criteria stated in this letter will select the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.
- Eligibility Criteria: To be eligible for consideration, Department nominees must meet the following criteria:
  - Be a citizen of the United States, male or female.
  - Be a living, active, full-time, and paid, sworn law enforcement officer entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest.
  - Consideration for a posthumous award will be acceptable only if the nominee's death has occurred after the department's selection and within the dates for which the award is being presented.

- Be assigned to, or fully recognized by, Municipal (City), County, District or State Police (e.g., University Police, etc.) or Highway Patrol, Sheriffs office, or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (e.g., FBI or Secret Service Agent, United States Federal Marshal, National Park Police, Capitol Police, civilian special agents (1811 s) with AFOSI, Army CID, CGIS, NCIS, and USMC CID etc.)
- Be selected as the Post Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.
- Department nominees are not required to be veterans or members of The American Legion.
- Reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the department from which they are selected.
- Federal agents serving in overseas departments may be nominated by the overseas department.
- **Nominees selected for this award should be available to receive this award at The American Legion National Convention in 2028**
- Military police officers or investigators are not eligible for participation in this award

#### **NOMINEE Packages:**

Nominee packages should include: (1) a completed application form, (2) a 5" x 7" photograph of the nominee, and (3) a maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2" x 11" bond paper of service documentation. The first six or seven pages should contain the individual's service narrative. The additional pages may include supporting citations and other documentation including press articles. Only one copy of the application package needs to be submitted. The following documentation should be included:

- Application form - Complete the attached application form and use it as the cover page of the application. This cover page shall not count as part of the maximum 18 pages of service documentation.
- 5" x 7" official photograph of the nominee.
- Service narrative and supporting documentation. The goal of the Department Law Cadet and & Law & Order Sub-committee is to select a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements of his or her position and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication, and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to his/her community, state or nation; and also has proven his/her dedication to societal security and protection. The law enforcement officer must be recommended by his/her Commanding Officer or Supervisor for this award. The commanding officer or supervisor should also state that the law enforcement officer will be available for its presentation at the national convention if selected for this award. Specific acts of Community service, heroism, and meritorious performance recognized by his/her law enforcement agency should be included and documented. To assist departments in their selections, judging guidelines at the national level will be based on the following criteria, and maximum percentage points will be allocated as follows:

- Community Service ..... 35 points
- Professional Career ..... 40 points
- Heroism ..... 20 points
- Letters of Recognition, news clippings, and other substantiating documentation ..... 5 points

- **Community Service:** Outstanding service to the community, state, or nation by the officer, in both on-duty and off-duty activities, should be explained for the past year and may include previous years.

Cite, for example, awards and/or supporting letters from city or county commissioners, letters from state officials, letters from The American Legion department or posts, or citizens attesting to and commending the officer for his/her community service contributions.

Remember, one of the major aims of the award program is to select a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service, above and beyond assigned duty requirements.

- Citations for community service, heroism, and meritorious performance of duty should be explained for the past year and may include previous years. Include citations and any supporting letters from the officer's chain of command as well as other documentation from city, county, state authorities, and American Legion officials, citizens, or civic groups as further evidence of community service, heroic and meritorious performance of duty by the officer.
- Include a copy of your nominee's state or federal certification

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