

Now Accepting Nominations for

THE 2024 NDSC AWARDS

GUIDELINES

In its evaluation of award nominees, the NDSC Board shall consider the following factors:

- **Reach and/or longevity of the nominee's work:** Does the work of the nominee have a local, state, and/or national impact, and how long have they been doing the activity (ies) for which they are nominated?
- **Image of Individuals with Down syndrome:** Does the program, publication, or individual promote a positive image of people with Down syndrome?
- **Significance of Contributions:** Does the nominee's work address or advance areas of concern to the Down syndrome community such as medical, education, employment, independence, etc.? Does the nominee's work recognize the value of the person with Down syndrome?
- **Connection with the Down syndrome community:** Does the work of the nominee support or advance efforts of the Down syndrome community, which may include the work of NDSC?

AWARD CATEGORIES

- **Impact on the Down Syndrome Community: Exceptional Meritorious Service Award:** This award recognizes an individual whose service and contributions to people with Down syndrome and their families have had local, state, and national significance.
- **Employment: Employer of the Year Award:** This award recognizes an employer for efforts in creating employment opportunities for people with Down syndrome.
- **Self-Advocate: Christian Pueschel Memorial Citizen Award:** This award recognizes an individual with Down syndrome whose achievements, service, and contributions have enhanced the value and dignity of people with Down syndrome and their families.
- **NDSC Service: Sig Pueschel Service Award:** This award recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to the NDSC.
- **Affiliate Group: National (Affiliate) Group Award:** This award recognizes an affiliate group of the NDSC, which has performed outstanding service on behalf of people with Down syndrome and their families. Affiliate groups will be judged on advocacy services, relationship to the NDSC, support to families, fundraising activities, and local and regional programs, services, and community activities and has been in existence for at least 5 years.
- **Research: Pueschel/Tjossem Research Award:** This award recognizes research, which has contributed to greater knowledge and understanding of Down syndrome and has improved the lives of people with Down syndrome or their families.
- **Media (traditional): National Media Award (television, film, print, online):** This award honors outstanding national media efforts, that create a better understanding of Down syndrome and people with Down syndrome. The award recognizes programs on television, documentaries, feature films, national publications, serials, syndicated columns, and social media. National Media Awards may be presented for the categories of film, print, and online. The media efforts must have been broadcast or published within the last calendar year.
- **Media (social): Social Connection Award:** This award honors outstanding use of social media to connect the Down syndrome community and/or create a better understanding of Down syndrome and people with Down syndrome. The award recognizes programs utilizing



ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- **Focus on abilities:** Does the nominee accentuate abilities, not disability?
- **Focus on individuals:** Does the program focus on people, not the condition of Down syndrome?
- **Celebrate diversity:** Does the individual or program celebrate diversity? People-first language: Is the nomination written using people-first language? Does the nomination emphasize the person, not the disability?
- **Enhance dignity of people:** Does the nominee enhance the dignity of people with Down syndrome?
- **Avoid stereotyping:** Does the nomination avoid stereotyping? Information accuracy: Does the nomination present accurate information?

TIMELINE

- **September 30, 2023:** Online nomination form opens
- **January 15, 2024:** Deadline for Submissions and supporting Documents
- **March 22, 2024:** Award Recipients will be notified
- **July 25-28, 2024:** Awards will be presented at Convention



NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS