

It's Awards Season!

Don't delay, submit your nominations today for the NSTA Awards Program.



Each year, the National School Transportation Association honors individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to student transportation. Awards recipients will be celebrated at the awards ceremony held at the 2026 NSTA Annual Meeting & Convention in Denver, on Tuesday, July 21, 2026.

The deadline for nominations to be received is
May 1, 2026.

Below are detailed descriptions of each award and to submit your nomination, please [click here](#).

Together let's celebrate safety and excellence in private school bus contracting.

Important Note: If your nominee is chosen as an awards recipient, it is your responsibility to assure that, the award winner can be registered and in attendance at the 2026 NSTA Awards & Installation Dinner in Denver on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 beginning at 6:00 PM (ET). NSTA Staff stands ready to assist you in this endeavor.

We look forward to receiving your awards nomination!

If you have questions about the awards nomination process, please feel free reach out to NSTA Headquarters at info@yellowbuses.org, or by telephone at 703-684-3200.

2026 NSTA Award Categories

NSTA HALL OF FAME:

This honor is given to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in their long-standing efforts on behalf of pupil transportation. In 1992, NSTA established this honor to recognize the special contributions that distinguished and talented NSTA members have made to school transportation over the course of their careers. Only one honoree can be inducted annually.

NSTA CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR:

This Award changed in 2022, to a company award that honors an NSTA voting member company for its excellence in safety, service, and leadership. The nominated company must be an NSTA VOTING MEMBER in good standing for the prior three years. This honor is awarded partnership with School Transportation News.

NSTA VENDOR PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Awarded to an NSTA Vendor Partner that has offered superior support to NSTA through committee service, financial support, and educational contributions to the organization, as well as student transportation as a whole. The nominee shall be an NSTA Vendor Partner company in good standing for at least the past three consecutive years.

NSTA OUTSTANDING DRIVER SERVICE AWARD:

Awarded to an individual school bus driver who has consistently demonstrated excellence in safety, performance, commitment to pupil transportation, and special contributions to the community.

NSTA GOLDEN MERIT AWARD:

Awarded to an individual of an NSTA member company - who has demonstrated excellence in service, safety, and outstanding community service throughout their career in student transportation. The honoree shall have exemplified superior leadership, innovation, decision-making, and empowerment throughout the course of their tenure in pupil transportation.

NSTA GO YELLOW, GO GREEN AWARD:

Awarded to a company leader in the school transportation realm who demonstrates innovation, commitment, and dedication to the environment - by pursuing green policies and initiatives that promote environmental awareness and support the evolution of a greener pupil transportation system.

NSTA COMMITTEE CHAIR OF THE YEAR:

Awarded by the NSTA Executive Committee to a current NSTA Committee Chair - who has exhibited excellence in leadership, innovation, and commitment in their role as a leader in the organization. This individual must have served in their as role chair of an NSTA committee for at least two years.

NSTA COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR:

Awarded to an NSTA Committee Member, who has gone above and beyond in their committee service as well as for the Association. The nominated committee member needs to have served on an active committee for at least two successive years.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:

In 1992, the NSTA Board of Directors established the Distinguished Service Award. In creating the Distinguished Service Award, the Board wanted to recognize a school bus contractor for recent, significant, substantial, and special contributions to pupil transportation contracting.

INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR:

School Transportation News has opened registration for its fifth-annual Innovator of the Year award, which features a private school bus contractor employee who exemplifies the adoption of cutting-edge technology and programs.

The magazine partners with the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) to present the award. Readers may submit an online nomination through May 1 to recognize an individual who works for a school bus contractor company and meets the criteria. Qualifications include making “significant, tangible contributions” to the school transportation industry within the past 12 months. Innovations could include technology implementation, operations, safety initiatives and green energy adoption.

To submit your nominations,
please click here.