



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can nominate a Good Neighbor?

Anyone can nominate a Good Neighbor—common examples include the nominee's broker, a colleague, a spouse, or a representative from the charity or real estate board. Many candidates nominate themselves. The nominee, however, must be a REALTOR®, that is, a current member in good standing of the local REALTOR® association and NAR.

Can I nominate myself?

Yes, in fact, we encourage you to. Though some people aren't comfortable "selling" themselves, you are uniquely qualified to share the details of your experience with us. If you do nominate yourself, we encourage you to provide at least one testimonial letter from someone else who is familiar with your volunteer work—these testimonials usually speak in more glowing terms than you would use to describe yourself and provide insight into how your work is viewed by others.

Can an Affiliate Member be nominated?

Yes – this award is open to all GAR members.

Can a group be nominated?

Though there are plenty of deserving groups, this award is specifically intended to recognize individual members. The only exception would be if two people—such as husband and wife or business partners—work together equally on a project. If their work truly cannot be separated, they can be nominated together. However, keep in mind that the judges will be comparing them with individual candidates. Generally, it is advisable to designate one person as the nominee if possible.

Am I eligible if I volunteer for more than one organization?

Absolutely. It is common for volunteers to be involved in more than one area of community service. If you would like your application to be considered based on your work with several charities, include the information on the application (attach additional pages if necessary). One word of caution: Quality is more important than quantity. Generally, the more organizations you include, the harder it is for judges to determine the impact you have made, so it's often better to limit the details to only the organizations for which you have made a significant impact.

How can I make my application stand out?

The essay and the testimonial letters are often the most valuable portions of the application for the judges. The following tips provide insight into what the judges are looking for and can help you submit the most effective essay:

- Be as specific as possible. For example, give a close estimate of the number of hours volunteered, the number of people the nominee helped, the number of dollars raised, etc.

Vague words like "countless" "incalculable" or even "thousands" are of very little use to the judges.

- Don't rely on adjectives. Superlatives like "kindest", "most dedicated", "most generous"—though certainly true—don't help the judges evaluate a nominee's achievements. Instead, describe something the nominee did that illustrates how kind or dedicated he or she is.
- Don't be modest. If you are uncomfortable talking about your achievements, have someone else write the essay portion for you and/or provide detailed testimonials. Testimonials from someone you've helped are particularly valuable.
- Focus on your accomplishments, not the organization's in general. The judges need to evaluate the impact that the nominee has personally made. Don't make the mistake of only emphasizing how much good the organization has done; instead, focus on what the nominee has done for the organization.

Can I send a video with my application?

No. With the amount of materials the judges anticipate on reviewing, we won't have an adequate amount of time to review videos.

When will the recipients be announced?

Up to three recipients will be named in December. They will be recognized during the GAR Awards Luncheon, which will take place during the Inaugural Meeting in February.

What do the recipients receive?

At the present time, \$300.00 is available for Good Neighbor Awards. If one recipient receives the award, he or she is awarded the full amount for their charity. If there are two winners, the amount is split in half (\$150.00 each), and if there are three winners, the amount is split three ways (\$100.00 each). Winners also receive statewide publicity through a Georgia REALTOR® story and through a press release distributed by GAR.

Further questions?

Please call Christy Conway, Director of Leadership Services, 678-597-4129, cconway@garealtor.com.