GEAFCS AWARDS MANUAL

2025

REVISED DECEMBER 2024

National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences
Georgia Affiliate

NEAFCS/GEAFCS AWARDS

NEAFCS AWARDS

The 2025 Awards Manual/Guidelines will become available on the NEAFCS website on **December 1st, 2024.**

It contains a complete description of awards as well as eligibility requirements. Members should review and follow the guidelines and scoring sheet in the manual in preparing and submitting awards applications.

Please remember that membership dues should have been renewed by December 31st in order to eligible to apply for awards.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

The Georgia deadline for national awards submission is **February 14, 2025**. Awards will be submitted electronically to NEAFCS using the online process and then will be judged on the state level before the national deadline in March. State winners will progress to regional and national judging.

Georgia Members submitting national awards applications must complete the following:

1. Submit the NEAFCS Award Application online by the Georgia deadline of **February 14, 2025.**

2. **IMPORTANT:** Email a copy of your awards submission confirmation page to GEAFCS VP of Awards and Recognition, MaryBeth Hornbeck at marybeth.hornbeck@uga.edu. If the submission is a team award, please include a list of **ALL** team members. Additional team members cannot be added after the deadline.

Reminders

- Use video files that are compatible with Windows Media Player or web links for videos.
- Combine files with Adobe Acrobat; create PDF files, merge, and order.
- One picture required in last (fourth) space; application not accepted if not loaded. Do not include extra pictures in written application.
- Do not enter awards for another person; the entries are tied to your member profile.
- Links can be included for newsletters, curriculum, and blogs, within the Program Outline or Upload File areas.
- For team award applications, only the team leader completes the online award application. Large teams of more than 20 members, in last space put "additional team members listed in application."
- **Judges scores are final!**

GEAFCS & NEAFCS AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (DSA)

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest award presented by NEAFCS. The award recognizes members for leadership, educational program efforts and professional development. There is both a State DSA & National DSA.

CONTINUED EXCELLENCE AWARD

The award recognizes NEAFCS members who have previously received the Distinguished Service Award and continue to be actively involved in professional improvement programs, the promotion of professional development of others, and leadership.

PAST PRESIDENT'S NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

The award is presented to an outstanding new professional (5 years or less) and must be used to help defray the cost of attending the recipient's NEAFCS Annual Session.

Reminders

- Make sure current NEAFCS dues are paid.
- Follow GEAFCS procedures and ensure all judging criteria are met.
- Make sure each award includes a signed application form (Online application for national awards and General Application form for State Awards for GA awards).
- DSA and Continued Excellence Awards use a vita for judging.
- Review specific award information for packaging details.
- Award team leader/members must be NEAFCS members.
- Non-NEAFCS award team members are not eligible for monetary awards and will receive only a certificate.
- All awards must have a 50-word summary statement and a 30-word summary statement.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

ELIGIBILITY

State DSA

1. Minimum of 10 years membership in GEAFCS
2. Evidence of superior accomplishments
3. Award can be received only once
4. Must be a current member of GEAFCS
5. Maximum of 5 state awards may be awarded

National DSA

1. Minimum of 10 years membership in GEAFCS/NEAFCS
2. Must have attended at least two (2) NEAFCS Annual Sessions
3. Must have received state DSA (can happen in same year)
4. Evidence of superior accomplishments, including evidence of impact
5. Award may be received only once
6. Must be a current member of GEAFCS/NEAFCS
7. One award allowed for every 50 members of NEAFCS/GEAFCS
8. **This award is judged at the Affiliate level only, state affiliate guidelines can dictate different page limits than national guidelines.**

State DSA APPLICATION OUTLINE

(*Minimum of 10 years membership in GEAFCS*)

Page 1 General Application Form for State Awards (Found in GEAFCS Awards Manual or on GEAFCS website)

Page 2 Summary Statement for use in awards booklet (50 words or less)

Page 3-9 Program Outline/Vita that covers the following criteria:

I. **Program accomplishments - 50 points**
   1. One or two outstanding recent accomplishments

II. **Professional improvement - 25 points**
   1. Give evidence of professional growth through credit or non-credit courses, work toward advanced degree, professional association meeting, travel study, etc. List honors and awards received.

III. **Professional association membership and participation - 25 points**
   1. List Affiliate and national offices, committees, chairs, and years of membership.

National DSA APPLICATION OUTLINE

(Minimum of 10 years membership in GEAFCS/NEAFCS)

1. Complete Online Awards Application Form (Submitted at www.neafcs.org)
2. Summary Statement for use in awards booklet (30 words or less)
3. Program Outline/Vita (follow state guidelines) uploaded as Award Entry File 1.
4. Photo upload for File 4.

CONTINUED EXCELLENCE AWARD

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicant must have been a member of NEAFCS for at least 12 years, including the current year
2. Applicant must have received the NEAFCS Distinguished Service Award prior to the current session
3. Applicant must have attended three (3) NEAFCS annual sessions
4. Award can be received only once
5. Applicant must be actively involved in a professional improvement program including any or all of the following:
    a. Participation in informal (non-credit) professional development within the past three years; or
    b. Formal study toward an advanced degree (current or completed); and
    c. Demonstration of personal commitment to professional development through participation in professional associations and contributions to state Extension and state associations
6. One award allowed for every 50 members of NEAFCS/GEAFCS
7. **This award is judged at the Affiliate level only, state affiliate guidelines can dictate different page limits than national guidelines.**

CONTINUED EXCELLENCE APPLICATION OUTLINE
(*Minimum of 12 years membership in GEAFCS*)

Page 1 Online Application Form (Submitted at www.neafcs.org)
Page 2 Summary Statement for use in awards booklet (50 words or less)
Page 3-9 Program Outline/Vita that covers the following criteria:

1. Professional activities during the past three years - 40 points
2. Participation in professional development and/or advanced degree in progress or obtained - 20 points
3. Professional association membership and participation, contributions to professional development activities of others - 20 points
4. Personal commitment to and future plans for professional development. - 20 points

5. Complete Online Awards Application Form (Submitted at www.neafcs.org)
6. Summary Statement for use in awards booklet (30 words or less)
7. Program Outline/Vita (follow state guidelines) uploaded as Award Entry File 1.
8. Photo upload for File 4.

PAST PRESIDENT'S NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

PURPOSE
To recognize outstanding work in the area of FACS by new county extension agents.

AWARD
State: One state winner will receive $500 to attend an NEAFCS meeting to encourage attendance by new members to national meetings.

National: One national award of $500 presented annually to an outstanding new professional. The award must be used to help defray the cost of attending the recipient's first NEAFCS Annual Session.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be an active member of GEAFCS.
2. Must have worked at least one year but no more than 5 years with Extension.
3. State award winner will receive $500 to attend NEAFCS meeting.
4. State winning application and runner-up application will be submitted to NEAFCS to compete in NEAFCS New Professional Award competition. The state award can only be won once.
5. Previous year's district winners may compete for state winner if they still meet eligibility guidelines by award application due date. However, they will not be eligible to win district again.

STATE WINNER REQUIREMENTS

1. Applications will be judged & ranked by May 15th. The winner will be notified by May 30th. The winner must notify VP Awards & Recognition to accept or reject the trip by June 15, 2025.
2. State winner will agree to attend the NEAFCS meeting in the year the cash award is received as an active member of GEAFCS/NEAFCS. If the 1st place winner does not meet award acceptance criteria, the 2nd place winner will be invited and awarded the $500, etc.
3. Recipient will refund the $500 to GEAFCS immediately if unable to attend National meeting, no longer employed by UGA Cooperative Extension, or not currently a member in good standing.

PAST PRESIDENT'S NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

NEW PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION OUTLINE

Page 1 Online Application Form (Submitted at www.neafcs.org)

Page 2-6 **Program Outline**: limit to five (5) double-spaced typed pages

- **Introduction of nominee**- brief statement of the nominee's professional data.
- **Program accomplishment**- in 200 words or less, summarize most outstanding accomplishments as an Extension. employee. Include objectives, goals, methods, results, and evaluation of programs conducted.
- **Special honors or awards**- list any special honors or awards received since beginning Extension employment
- **Professional association membership and participation**- list current membership in related professional associations. Do not include honorary societies, civic and service clubs.
- Statement verifying that the applicant has never attended an Annual Session (for national award)

Page 7 **Letter of Support** from appropriate state staff or district administrator

GEAFCS ONLY AWARDS

ALVA YOUNGNER FACS PROGRAMMING FOR 4-H

One state award of $250 is presented annually to an outstanding professional for their work with 4-H and youth.

DEAN SHARON Y. NICKOLS PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT AWARD

One state award of $750 to provide funds for Family & Consumer Science Educators to pursue either a professional improvement experience or an advanced degree.

Reminders

- Make sure current NEAFCS dues are paid.
- Follow GEAFCS procedures and ensure all judging criteria are met.
- All awards must have a 30-word and 50-word summary statement.
- Review specific award information for packaging details.
- Award team leader/members must be NEAFCS members.
- Non-NEAFCS award team members are not eligible for monetary awards and will receive only a certificate.

ALVA YOUNGNER FAMILY& CONSUMER SCIENCE PROGRAMMING AWARD FOR 4-H AND YOUTH

BACKGROUND
GEAFCS established this award for outstanding educational accomplishments by members for work with 4-H and Youth.

AWARD
One state award of $250 is presented annually to an outstanding professional for their work with 4-H and youth. A certificate and cash award will be presented at the state meeting. The cash award is to be used for professional improvement that will serve the interests and needs of the recipients.

PURPOSE
The award is to recognize professional Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Educator for outstanding educational programs that demonstrate impact on 4-H and youth in Family & Consumer Sciences issues.

ELIGIBILITY
1. Persons who are current members of GEAFCS.
2. Entry may be submitted by an individual or a team.
3. Program work should have begun within the last five years.
4. Individual or team cannot win the award consecutively.
5. Email one copy to VP for Awards, MaryBeth Hornbeck at marybeth.hornbeck@uga.edu and the Jr VP for Awards, Allison Eaddy at allison.eaddy@uga.edu.

APPLICATION OUTLINE:
Page 1 General Application Form for State Awards
Page 2 Summary Statement for use in awards booklet (50 words or less)
Page 3-5 Program Outline (90 points): limit to three (3) pages
- **Introduction (20 points):** program objectives, target audience defined
- **Program Description (30 points):** content, delivery methods described, materials developed and/or used
- **Program Impact (40 points):** evaluation methods, results/impacts, visibility

Page 6-7 Supplementary materials (10 points): limit two (2) pages

DEAN SHARON Y. NICKOLS PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT AWARD

PURPOSE

The purpose of this award is to provide funds for Family & Consumer Science Educators to pursue either a professional improvement experience or an advanced degree. One award will be given for professional improvement.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be an active member of GEAFCS
2. Must have worked a minimum of (5) years with Extension before applying
3. Pursuing a professional improvement experience, continuing education, or advanced degree relevant to Extension Family& Consumer Sciences
4. Submit a transcript if working on a degree
5. Letter of recommendation from District Extension Director or from the State Program Leader of Family & Consumer Sciences

AMOUNT

The $750 award will be paid directly to the recipient at the GEAFCS State meeting when the award is announced.

PRESENTATION

The award will be presented annually at the GEAFCS Awards Program.

APPLICATION OUTLINE

I. Complete Dean Sharon Nickols Award Application and General Application Form for State Awards

II. Full Application Outline (7 pages maximum, double spaced, minimum 10-point font)

B. Involvement (2 pages)
   a. GEAFCS / NEAFCS
   b. Other Professional Organizations
   c. Community Involvement

A. Plan of Study (2 pages): Write proposal, not to exceed 2 double-spaced pages, minimum font/size 10, documenting:
   a. The subject matter area chosen or other topic for professional improvement
   b. The details for carrying out the professional improvement or study plan.
   c. Specifically, how it will relate to Extension

C. Program Accomplishments (2 pages)
   a. The impact of the Family & Consumer Sciences Program in serving needs and interests of clientele with whom you work.
   b. Cooperation with other Extension workers and other organizations and agencies serving people

D. One additional page of supporting material may be added such as news articles, pictures, newsletters, program agendas, etc.

General Application Form for GEAFCS State Awards

ONE (1) COPYMUST ACCOMPANY EACH APPLICATION AND MUST BE TYPED.

Mark the type of entry: ☐ Individual Entry ☐ Team Entry: *List the names of all team members on the back of this form, and indicate whether or not they are members of GEAFCS.*

Name of award for which you are applying: _____

**ONLY Alva Youngner Family & Consumer Science Programming Award for 4-H and Youth and Dean Sharon Y. Nickols Professional Improvement Award
ALL OTHER AWARDS USE NEAFCS ONLINE APPLICATION**

Personal Information:

Number of years of GEAFCS/NEAFCS membership: _____

Name as it is to appear on certificate	Job Title		
Work Address	City	State	Zip
Home Address	City	State	Zip
Work email address	Home email address		
Work phone / extension	Work Fax	Home Phone	
Applicant's Signature	Date	Sponsoring Agent (Para Professional Award)	Date
50 Word Summary statement describing your award entry:			
30 Word Summary statement describing your award entry:			

Remember to list names/membership status of all team members on the back of this form