



## 2021 TRAIL AWARDS

Given the uncertainty created by the on-going pandemic, we are working on a variety of alternatives to the traditional in-person California Trails and Greenways event should we be unable to gather in person in 2021. Therefore, we are gathering workshop and session proposals and trail award nominations for presentation in whatever format – in person or virtually - that is determined to be safe to use. Currently, California Trails and Greenways 2021 is scheduled to take place in Modesto from April 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>.



## California Trails & Greenways 2021

### Call for Award Nominations

Nominations due January 11, 2021

The Awards Committee seeks nominees for recognition at California Trails & Greenways 2021. This program is an opportunity to bring acknowledgement and appreciation to the individuals, organizations, agencies, and businesses that, through their hard work, integrity, and social responsibility, have made outstanding contributions to promote, enhance, or expand public awareness and use of trails and greenways in California during calendar year 2020.

**The Awards Committee seeks nominations for notable achievements in the following categories:**

#### **Individuals:**

- Serving as an exceptional **volunteer leader worthy of lifetime recognition** for achievements on behalf of trails or greenways statewide for over 25 years.
- Working far above and beyond their required duties as a **parks or trails professional**, nominees **worthy of lifetime recognition** have dedicated over 25 years to further the cause of trails or greenways in California.
- An individual** (private citizen, elected official, or professional) who has made a significant contribution in support of trails or greenways and has been publically involved with trail issues for at least seven years.

#### **Organizations or agencies that:**

- Initiated or implemented successful trail or greenway **events**.
- Initiated or implemented active **programs** that benefited trails or greenways.
- Reached significant milestones in the **development or reconstruction** of unique trail or greenway projects.
- Reached significant milestones in trail or greenway **acquisitions**.
- Reached significant milestones in unique trail or greenway **planning projects**.

#### **Individuals, organizations, agencies, or businesses that:**

- Achieved excellence in design and creative approaches in developing trails or greenway information systems using **technology, social media, or websites**.
- Established innovative programs to **engage children and youth in outdoor experiences** using, but not limited solely to, trails.
- Established innovative programs to **engage underserved communities in outdoor experiences** using, but not limited solely to, trails.

***All nominees must exemplify integrity, and social and environmental responsibility.***

Any individual, organization, or agency may make a nomination in one or more of the award categories. The full eligibility requirements are detailed on the following pages. Nominations must be received by **January 11, 2021**. Award recipients will be notified by March 1, 2021.

For questions regarding the awards program contact [trails@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trails@parks.ca.gov).

For more information about **California Trails & Greenways** visit [www.parks.ca.gov/trails/ctg](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trails/ctg).

## **California Trails & Greenways 2021**

### **Award Categories**

[www.parks.ca.gov/trails/ctg](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trails/ctg)

<b>Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award</b>	Presented to an <b>individual</b> who has volunteered considerable personal time for more than 25 years on behalf of trails or greenways, and who has been a leader with statewide impact on trails or greenways in California. This category is not necessarily recognized every year.
<b>Lifetime Professional Achievement Award</b>	Presented to a <b>park or trails professional</b> who has worked far above and beyond their required duties for more than 25 years on behalf of trails or greenways, and who has been a leader with statewide impact on trails or greenways in California. This category is not necessarily recognized every year.
<b>Trail Champion Award</b>	Presented to an <b>individual</b> who has made significant contributions in support of trails or greenways in California. The award is open to persons (volunteer, elected official, or professional) who supported trails through design, development, maintenance, management, or operation of trails in urban, suburban, or rural areas. Nominees must have been publically involved with trail issues for at least seven years. If the nominee is a trail professional (employed by a public agency, non-profit, or private business whose primary job is trails or greenway-related), there must be significant contributions beyond normal work duties. The award is not open to anyone who has previously received a state, national, or international trails or greenway award. Extra consideration will be given for accomplishments related to the creation of a specific “product” such as a trail or greenway, or trail or greenway program.
<b>Merit Award (Acquisition)</b>	Given in recognition of a unique trail or greenway acquisition project that reached a significant milestone in 2020. Nominees should be the <b>organization or agency</b> that initiated and implemented the project.
<b>Merit Award (Development)</b>	Given in recognition of a unique trail or greenway development or reconstruction project that reached a significant milestone in 2020. Nominees should be the <b>organization or agency</b> that initiated and implemented the project.
<b>Merit Award (Event)</b>	Given in recognition of a special and successful trail or greenway event held in 2020. Nominees should be the <b>organization or agency</b> that initiated and implemented the event. Note: <i>California Trail Days and National Trails Day events are eligible for nomination in this category.</i>
<b>Merit Award (Kids &amp; Trails)</b>	This award honors an <b>individual, organization, agency, or business</b> that established an innovative program in 2020 specifically designed to engage children and youth in outdoor experiences using trails. Creative, interpretive, educational, and/or recreational design components are included along with innovative programs that stimulate kids’ imaginations and promote their interest in and appreciation for the natural environment while developing healthy lifestyles.
<b>Merit Award (Planning)</b>	Given in recognition of a unique trail or greenway planning project that reached a significant milestone in 2020. Nominees should be the <b>organization or agency</b> that initiated and implemented the project.
<b>Merit Award (Program)</b>	Given in recognition of an important trail or greenway program that was established in 2020. Nominees should be the <b>organization or agency</b> that initiated and implemented the program.
<b>Merit Award (Underserved Communities)</b>	This award honors an <b>individual, organization, agency, or business</b> that established an innovative program in 2020 specifically designed to engage underserved communities in outdoor experiences using trails. Creative, interpretive, educational, and/or recreational design components are included along with innovative programs that encourage families and others to venture into open spaces and promote their interest in and appreciation for the natural environment while developing healthy lifestyles.
<b>Social Media, Websites and Technology Award</b>	Presented to an <b>organization, agency, or business</b> that has used social media in a new and creative way, developed a website that has achieved overall excellence through design and concept, or made use of new technologies to advance the promotion or development of trails and greenways in 2020.

*All nominees must exemplify integrity, and social and environmental responsibility.*

## **California Trails & Greenways 2021**

**April 14 - 16, 2021**

### **Awards Committee's Nomination Instructions**

Nominations must be received by January 11, 2021

- Complete the Awards Nomination Cover Form.
- Provide a narrative no more than two pages using single-spaced 12-point, Arial font. The first paragraph should be a concise summary (max. 60 words) of the person or project. If the nominee is selected for an award, the paragraph will be used to develop the award caption and program description.
- Include no more than six attachments in support of the nomination. Attachments may include brochures, maps, photographs, articles, letters of support, or similar materials.
- The total nomination package (form, narrative, and attachments) should not exceed ten pages.
- Do not send letters of support separately. If letters of support are included, they will be considered "attachments," limited as described above.
- Completed nomination packages must arrive via email ([trails@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trails@parks.ca.gov)) by January 11, 2021 to be considered. Award recipients will be notified by March 1, 2021.

Nominations within each category will be ranked by the judges from lowest to highest based on the responses to the questions on pages 5-6. The nominee with the highest ranking within each category will be that category's award recipient. NOTE, the "award year" is the full calendar year prior to California Trails & Greenways 2021. Decisions by the Awards Committee are considered final.

For questions regarding the awards program contact [trails@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trails@parks.ca.gov). For more information about California Trails & Greenways 2021 visit [www.parks.ca.gov/trailsandgreenways](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trailsandgreenways).

**California Trails & Greenways 2021**

**April 14 - 16, 2021**

**Awards Committee  
Nomination Cover Form**

Nominations must be received by January 11, 2021

**Nominee Name (individual, entity, or project being nominated):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information** (Individual representing the nominated entity, project, or individual):

Representative's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency or Entity: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Award Category** -- Check one

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Volunteer Achievement    | <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Award – Kids & Trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Professional Achievement | <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Award – Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Champion Award              | <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Award – Program       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Award – Acquisition         | <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Award -- Underserved  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Award – Development         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media, Websites, and |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Award – Event               |  |

**Individual, organization, or agency making the nomination:**

Nominating Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency or Entity (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit a PDF file (not to exceed 10MB)** of the nomination package. Email security automatically rejects files larger than 10MB. If you believe your nomination package warrants special accommodation, contact [trails@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trails@parks.ca.gov). **The nomination package must arrive at the email address below by January 11, 2021 and include:**

- Nomination Cover Form
- Application Narrative
- Attachments

Please return proposals to [trails@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trails@parks.ca.gov)

## Call for Award Nominations

### Application Narrative

Nominations due January 11, 2021

**All nominees must exemplify integrity, and social and environmental responsibility.** Nominees must meet the criteria of the award. Failure to demonstrate that the nominee meets these criteria will automatically disqualify the nomination.

#### Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award

- Document nominee's 25+ years of volunteer work on behalf of trails.
- Describe nominee's involvement in planning, developing, and/or promoting trails.
- Describe how nominee's actions have impacted trails locally and statewide.
- Document nominee's leadership and statewide impact on behalf of trails.
- Describe how nominee's contribution to trails has been exceptional and important.

#### Lifetime Professional Achievement Award

- Document nominee's 25+ years of working as a trails or greenways' professional on behalf of trails.
- Describe nominee's involvement in planning, developing, and/or promoting trails.
- Describe how the nominee's actions have impacted trails locally and statewide.
- Document nominee's leadership and statewide impacts on behalf of trails.
- Describe how nominee's contribution to trails has been exceptional and important.
- Document nominee's contribution of personal (volunteer) time over the past 25+ years on behalf of trails.

#### Trail Champion Award

- The nominee must be a volunteer, elected official, or professional. If the nominee is a trail professional, documentation must be provided demonstrating that the work is above and beyond normally required duties.
- Document nominee's 7+ years of public involvement in support of California's trails and greenways.
- Describe how nominee's efforts and commitment have led to an expansion of trail/greenways networks and/or programs.
- Describe how the nominee's actions have involved planning, developing, funding, maintaining, and/or promoting trails/greenways. Document the nominee's accomplishments related to the creation of a specific "product" such as a trail, greenway, or related program.
- Describe how nominee's contribution to trails/greenways has been exceptional and important.

#### MERIT AWARDS

Nominations within each of the seven award categories will be ranked by the judges from lowest to highest based on responses to the questions below. The nominee with the highest rank within each category will be that category's award recipient. *NOTE, achievements and milestones must have occurred during the calendar year 2020.*

#### Project Acquisition, Development or Planning Categories

- What was the date the project was completed or a significant milestone was achieved?
- How is the project successful, special, unusual, creative, innovative, and/or unique?
- How has the project involved community resources such as people or funding?
- How has the project benefited the community?
- How does the project serve as a model or provide guidance or inspiration to others?

## **Event**

- What was the date of the event?
- Describe the targeted community and the extent to which the event engaged that community?
- What measurements were used to determine the event's success and effectiveness?
- How was the event special, unusual, creative, innovative, and/or unique?
- How did the event benefit trails (i.e. raising public awareness, money, or volunteer service)?
- How does the project serve as a model or provide inspiration to others?

## **Kids & Trails Programs**

- What date was this program instituted?
- What innovative approaches were used to stimulate kids' imagination and promote their interest in and appreciation for the natural environment using trails?
- How were creative interpretive, educational, and/or recreational *design components* used?
- Was there a component to encourage developing a healthy lifestyle?
- How was the effort successful in engaging children and youth in outdoor experiences?
- How does the project serve as a model or provide inspiration to others?

## **Program Award**

- What date was this program instituted?
- How did the program benefit trails?
- How was the program successful and effective?
- How was the program special, unusual, creative, innovative, and/or unique?
- How did the program raise awareness, funding, partnerships, volunteers, or other benefits for the community?
- How did the program serve as a model or inspiration for others?

## **Underserved Communities Programs**

*[For the purposes of this award, "underserved communities" are those that have traditionally faced barriers in accessing safe parks, natural open spaces, trails, and/or greenways.]*

- What date was this program instituted?
- What innovative approaches were used to stimulate the imagination and promote interest and appreciation for trails and the natural environment?
- How were creative, interpretive, educational, and/or recreational *design components* used?
- Was there a component to encourage healthy lifestyles?
- How was the program successful in engaging community, families, & others in outdoor experiences?
- How does the program serve as a model or inspiration for other agencies or organizations?

## **Social Media, Websites and Technology Award**

- What date was the website or technology launched?
- Does the website, technology, or other social media provide trail-related information in a clear, logical, and useful format?
- Is the trail information valuable, relevant, and timely as presented to the public?
- How is the website, social media, or technology special, unusual, creative, innovative, and/or unique in presenting trail-related information?
- How is the success of the website, social media, or technology measured, and has success been achieved by these measurements?
- To what extent does the program serve as an important model or inspiration for other agencies or organizations?