

Sample Affiliate Awards Timeline (2026–2027)

November 2026

November 15

- Notify affiliate members that the updated NEAFCS Awards Manual has been posted and encourage them to review the requirements for the 2027 awards cycle.

November–December

- Recruit affiliate members to serve as award reviewers.
 - Reviewers should not plan to submit an award application during the current or upcoming awards cycle to avoid conflicts of interest.
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December 2026

December 1

- Affiliates should open their own awards submission process to collect applications for review. Affiliates may use a platform such as Qualtrics or another submission system.

December–February

- Affiliate reviewers should provide feedback to applicants on a regular basis (weekly or as needed).
 - Applicants should revise their submissions based on the feedback received and submit their final applications to the national portal by the February 15 deadline.
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January 2027

Early January

- Recruit judges for regional and national award judging.
- Additional information and instructions will be provided by the National Vice President for Awards to each Affiliate Vice President for Awards and/or awards chairs.

Mid-January

- The National Awards Application Portal opens for submissions (at least 30 days prior to the deadline).

February 2027

February 8 (suggested deadline)

- Affiliates should complete their final review of award applications.
- This recommended deadline allows applicants sufficient time to make revisions and submit their final applications to the national system by February 15.

February 15

- Final deadline for all award applications to be submitted through the National Awards Application Portal.

February 16–17

- A list of submitted applications will be provided to each affiliate for state scoring.
- Applications must receive a score of **80 points or higher** at the affiliate level to advance to regional and national judging.

February 17–28

- Affiliates should determine state-level award recipients and recognize qualifying submissions.

March 2027

March 1

- Deadline for the Affiliate Awards Vice President or Affiliate President to complete and submit the State Winner Form.
- Only applications that received an affiliate score of 80 points or higher should be included for consideration at the regional and national levels.
- The number of applications that may advance is determined by affiliate membership totals, as outlined in the NEAFCS Bylaws.

March

- Regional and national judging will be conducted.
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April 2027

April

- Regional and national award notifications will be distributed to recipients.
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Important Notes

- Affiliates are encouraged to establish an internal review process that provides applicants with constructive feedback before the national submission deadline.
- Reviewers and judges should avoid any conflicts of interest.
- Advancement to regional and national judging is contingent upon meeting the minimum affiliate score requirement and the submission limits established in the NEAFCS Bylaws.