



2026 TNOYS Annual Member Awards

Each year at our Annual Conference, TNOYS presents member awards to youth service professionals and volunteers (descriptions below). Nominations for the 2026 TNOYS Member Awards close on Monday, May 4, and can be submitted through [this form](#). Winners will be notified the following week. Winners will be recognized at the conference luncheon on Thursday, June 11, at the [42nd Annual Conference](#) (free for registered members).

Rising Star Award

- Recognizes an organization or program that has been successful in developing relationships and partnerships in its community. Prioritizes programs/organizations that collaborate across youth-serving systems.
- This award honors Joel Levine, Executive Director of Harris County Resources for Children and Adults, a longtime board member of TNOYS and a beloved member of the Texas community.

Professional Youth Worker

- Recognizes outstanding performance of a TNOYS member agency staff who goes above and beyond in performing their duties and in their communities.
- Recognizes employees of a TNOYS member agency, including direct services staff and program staff, including social workers, program directors, shelter managers, house managers, caseworkers, therapists, etc.

June Bucy Award for Excellence

- Recognizes excellence, leadership, and significant contributions to the field of youth services in the state or across the nation and is awarded to a TNOYS member agency executive director or upper-level manager/supervisor.
- This award honors June Bucy, former Executive Director of the National Network for Youth, and one of the guiding forces behind the youth services network.

Steve Wick Innovative Program

- Recognizes new, expanded, or innovative programs that make significant contributions to the field of youth services in the state or across the nation.
- This award is given to the program by name rather than to a specific person(s).
- This award is named in tribute to Steve Wick, one of the founders of TNOYS.

Volunteer of the Year

- Recognizes someone who donated substantial unpaid time to a TNOYS member organization.
- This award recognizes that many TNOYS' member organizations are on tight budgets and could not provide youth the highest quality of care without volunteer support.

Outstanding Youth Partner

- Recognizes a youth or young adult (ages 15-26) who has partnered with a TNOYS member organization over the past year and brought significant value to their services or training.
- This award recognizes that incorporating youth voice and youth-adult partnerships is a best practice of positive youth development and can help make youth service organizations stronger and more relevant.