

South Dakota American Legion Good Samaritan Award

1. A committee made up of the Post Americanism Officer, Post Chaplain, and members of the Post Executive Committee will gather narratives on potential candidates to be The American Legion of South Dakota “*Good Samaritan of the Year*”. These narratives will be judged by that Post committee. No more than one nominee per Post may be submitted to District level.
2. The narrative with supporting documentation of the Post nominee must be forwarded to the District Commander ten days prior to the Spring District Meeting. The District Executive Committee will make the selection of the District “*Good Samaritan of the Year*” award. The District Commander is responsible to forward the District’s nominee to Department Headquarters by May 1st. Department Headquarters will then forward the District “*Good Samaritan of the Year*” winners to a select committee for judging.
3. Members of the select committee for final judging will be the Department Americanism Chairman, Department Chaplain, and select members chosen by the State Commander.
4. Any individual or group is eligible to receive this award. All nominees for this award must be living within the state of South Dakota.
5. No Department winner may be considered for this award in successive years.
6. Membership in The American Legion or having the status of veteran shall **NOT** be requirements for consideration in qualifying any nominees for this award.
7. It is suggested that each Post award a cross pin with the American Flag wrapped around it. This award is available through emblem sales. It is suggested each District establish a suitable certificate and/or plaque for presentation to the District “*Good Samaritan of the Year*” award winner.
8. The Department of South Dakota will award a plaque annually to the Department winner at a local venue.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion includes as one of its objectives... “to promote peace and goodwill on earth”. How better to promote goodwill on earth than to recognize those who do acts of goodwill for their fellow man.

The South Dakota American Legion “*Good Samaritan of the Year*” award program serves to recognize those individuals or groups who give of themselves to help others. With so much negative publicity, this award is designed not only to honor a good Samaritan but also to make the public aware of the many good deeds and acts of kindness that are going on around us all the time.

PROGRAM CRITERIA/STRUCTURE

1. The South Dakota American Legion “*Good Samaritan of the Year*” award is open to any individual or group within the state of South Dakota.
2. Every American Legion Post is strongly urged to take advantage of this program to recognize these special good Samaritans. This program will only reflect positively on our organization.
3. The levels of award for this program will be:
 - A. Department “*Good Samaritan of the Year*”
 - B. District “*Good Samaritan of the Year*”
 - C. Post “*Good Samaritan of the Year*”