



Golden Merit Award

Recognition for excellence of service, safety, and outstanding demonstration of community responsibility

The goal of the National School Transportation Association is to promote greater safety and more professional transportation service throughout the industry. NSTA's Golden Merit Award was started in 1969 to recognize school bus operators for their successful operating achievements in the areas of safety, driver training, business practice, vehicle maintenance, and superior service to the school, community, and the pupil transportation industry. Through 2011, 392 awards have been given.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The nominee's company must be a school bus contractor in good standing of the National School Transportation Association for at least 3 consecutive years.
2. The nominee must be a member of the state contractors' association, if there is one.
3. Either an individual or a company may be nominated, although an individual is eligible for the award only once. A company's location may receive the award more than once. They then must meet the eligibility of number one, under eligibility, plus be at the same location for 3 years.
4. No more than 10 awards are given annually.
5. No more than two awards will be given to contractors in a single state. If nominations from more than 10 states are received, the committee will first consider one from each state.
6. In any year in which more than 10 nominations are received by NSTA, the applications for those nominees in excess of 10, who do not receive the award, may be held and considered in the next succeeding year. The nominee shall be so notified.

NOMINATION

Either a state contractors' association or an individual NSTA contractor member may nominate.

REQUESTED INFORMATION

The nomination application must include the following:

1. Nominee's 2 page application consisting of letters of recommendation from at least 2 of the following:
 - a. The director of the state contractors' association.
 - b. The superintendent or principal from a location in which the nominee operates.
 - c. The state director of pupil transportation or regional/county superintendent of schools.

- d. The nominee's insurance company or agent.
2. The letters should reflect the nominee's company service record, safety program, and community responsibility.
3. At least 3 photos of the nominee, including one in a professional setting and one in a less formal setting. Please email these photos to info@yellowbuses.org after you have sent in your application.
4. NSTA will provide the committee with information on the nominee's involvement with the association and years of NSTA membership.
5. If the nominee has sold his company, they must note to whom it was sold.
6. The nominee must provide contact information for the local media if he or she wishes to have a press release sent following the presentation of the award.

ACCEPTANCE

Recipients must accept the award in person, unless extenuating circumstances are approved by the Golden Merit Award Work Team, in advance, or the award will be held over to another year.

DEADLINES

1. All nominations must be received in the NSTA office by May 11, 2012.
2. All letters of recommendation and photos must accompany the application.
3. The Awards Work Team will review the information and nominees will be notified by May 28, 2012.

SUBMIT APPLICATION

Send completed application, before May 11, 2012, to NSTA, 113 South West Street, 4th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314.



Golden Merit Award Application

I wish to apply for the **Golden Merit Award** offered by the National School Transportation Association. This application authorizes NSTA and the Golden Merit Work Team to seek additional information required to determine my qualifications for this award.

Please type or print clearly

Applicant's Name*: _____

Company Name*: _____

Company Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **Email:** _____

Signature: _____

**Applicant's name and company should appear exactly as it should be printed on the Golden Merit Award*

Company Name to Whom Your Company was sold (if applicable):

Date started with company: _____

Positions Held: _____

Current position: _____

Newspapers and contact info (fax or email) where a press release should be sent:

For each location where you contract/operate, the following information must be provided: date you began operating from this location; name, address, phone, fax, and email for the school board official, superintendent, or principal to contact.

School District Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **Email:** _____

(Include additional sheets as necessary)

Please include any extra information that might be included in the award booklet. This might include other honors, awards or significant achievements in the school transportation field.

(Include additional sheets as necessary)

Send completed application (with letters of recommendation and photos) by May 11, 2012 to:

**National School Transportation
Attn: Golden Merit Award
113 South West Street, 4th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314**

For NSTA Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

___ Photos Received

___ Nominator Letter

___ State Transportation Director Letter

___ School District Official Letter

___ Insurance Agent Letter