APWA NATIONAL AWARDS

2027 nomination planning guide | Featured awards

FEATURED AWARDS

Presidential Acknowledgment for Chapter Excellence (PACE)

Annual recognition for chapters whose programs positively impact members, the profession, APWA, and their communities.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Eligible APWA chapter with required financial reporting complete
- Nine areas: finance, membership, leadership, administration, committees, education, outreach, communications, advocacy
- Nomination covers Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

DEADLINE

June 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Public Works Project of the Year

Recognizes excellence in project management, administration, and implementation through the partnership of the agency, consultant/architect/engineer, and contractor.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Public agency-owned and maintained project
- Substantially completed and available for use within two calendar years
- Cost divisions: under $5M; $5M to under $25M; $25M to $75M; over $75M
- Categories: Structures, Transportation, Environment, Historical Restoration/Preservation, Disaster or Emergency Construction Repair
- Judged on management, safety, community relations, environment, adversity, quality, innovation, and sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Project of the Year: Small Cities / Rural Communities

Honors creativity, ingenuity, and efficiency in projects with profound community impact for agencies serving cities or counties of 50,000 or fewer.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Public agency-owned and maintained project
- Substantially completed within two calendar years
- Categories: Structures; Transportation; Environment; Historical Restoration/Preservation; Disaster or Emergency Construction Repair
- Emphasis on need, sustainability, adversity, economics, resourcefulness, community impact, environment, and quality

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year

Recognizes outstanding career service achievements of public works professionals and officials in the public and private sectors.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member
- Minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Career service focus, not a single project
- Public and private sector candidates eligible
- Self-nominations are not accepted

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Planning assumption: award pages not yet updated for 2027 are shown with an assumed March 1, 2027 deadline. Verify all dates on the APWA site before submission.

APWA NATIONAL AWARDS

Individual and chapter recognition | Part 1 of 2

MEMBER AWARDS | LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION & CHAPTER SERVICE

APWA Pakpour Consulting Group Young Leader of the Year

Recognizes young members who demonstrate early commitment to public works and APWA, with potential for future growth.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member in good standing for five consecutive years
- Age 35 or younger as of deadline
- Leadership/service at chapter, branch, or national level
- Employer contributions, education, and sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Excellence in Education

Honors outstanding achievement in delivering educational opportunities and supporting continuing or graduate professional education.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Individual APWA member
- Demonstrated positive impact through education programs
- Originality and approach to educational challenges
- Nomination by an APWA member or chapter

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Outstanding Chapter Achievement and Excellence in Chapter Service

Recognizes dedicated, longstanding contributions that advance APWA chapter effectiveness and community value.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Individual, corporate, or public agency APWA member
- Consistent and committed chapter service
- Positive impact on chapter effectiveness
- Demonstrated value to the community
- Must be nominated by a chapter

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Professional Manager: Administrative Management

Recognizes excellence in managing administrative functions supporting a public works department.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member; minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Primary responsibility in administrative management
- Judging dimensions: Profession; Leadership; Innovation; Employment Achievement; Customer Service; Community Service; Sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Professional Manager: Engineering and Technology

Recognizes excellence in managing public works engineering and technology activities.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member; minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Manages diverse engineering/technology service delivery
- Creative engineering and effective use of technology
- Judging dimensions: Profession; Leadership; Innovation; Employment Achievement; Customer Service; Community Service; Sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

All Professional Manager awards use seven common judging dimensions: profession, leadership, innovation, employment achievement, customer service, community service, and sustainability.

APWA NATIONAL AWARDS

Professional Manager recognition | Part 2 of 3

MEMBER AWARDS | PROFESSIONAL MANAGER CATEGORIES

Professional Manager: Facilities and Grounds

Recognizes excellence in managing public facilities and/or grounds within the public works field.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member; minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Primary responsibility for public facilities and/or grounds
- Significant management contributions
- Judging dimensions: Profession; Leadership; Innovation; Employment Achievement; Customer Service; Community Service; Sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Professional Manager: Public Fleet

Recognizes excellence in managing a diversified fleet used to provide essential public services.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member; minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Primary responsibility for a public works fleet
- Public works career service in public sector fleet
- Judging dimensions: Profession; Leadership; Innovation; Employment Achievement; Customer Service; Community Service; Sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Professional Manager: Public Rights-of-Way

Recognizes excellence in public rights-of-way management and contributions to the field.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member; minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Primary responsibility in rights-of-way management
- Significant management contributions
- Judging dimensions: Profession; Leadership; Innovation; Employment Achievement; Customer Service; Community Service; Sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Professional Manager: Public Works Emergency Management

Recognizes excellence in managing public works emergency management programs.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member; minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Primary responsibility in an emergency management role
- Significant program management contributions
- Judging dimensions: Profession; Leadership; Innovation; Employment Achievement; Customer Service; Community Service; Sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

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APWA NATIONAL AWARDS

Professional Manager recognition | Part 3 of 3

MEMBER AWARDS | PROFESSIONAL MANAGER CATEGORIES

Professional Manager: Solid Waste

Recognizes excellence in managing public works solid waste operations.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member; minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Primary responsibility for a public works solid waste operation
- Scope may include landfill, collection, incineration, recycling, or a combination
- Judging dimensions: Profession; Leadership; Innovation; Employment Achievement; Customer Service; Community Service; Sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Professional Manager: Transportation

Recognizes excellence in managing transportation planning, design, operations, or maintenance.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member; minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Primary responsibility for transportation projects/programs
- Significant contributions across planning, design, operations, services, or maintenance
- Judging dimensions: Profession; Leadership; Innovation; Employment Achievement; Customer Service; Community Service; Sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

Professional Manager: Water Resources

Recognizes excellence in public works water resources management.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- APWA member; minimum 10 years of qualifying experience
- Primary responsibility in water resources management
- Significant management contributions
- Judging dimensions: Profession; Leadership; Innovation; Employment Achievement; Customer Service; Community Service; Sustainability

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027 11:55 p.m. CT

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APWA NATIONAL AWARDS

Public Works Industry Awards | Part 1 of 1

PUBLIC WORKS INDUSTRY AWARDS

Asset Management Award

Recognizes a team or organization for advancements in an asset management system that maximize community value from infrastructure assets.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Anyone active in public works; APWA membership not required
- Committee members are ineligible while serving
- Judged on balanced decisions, strategic alignment, organizational alignment, and accountability
- Agency or chapter nomination; submission limited to 10 pages

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027

11:55 p.m. CT

Distinguished Service to Public Works Award

Recognizes an elected or appointed government leader whose exemplary service has far-reaching impact on public works programs, services, or policies.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Candidate must be a nonmember recognized as a public works leader
- Local, state, or federal elected or appointed officials are eligible
- Show significant contributions and positive impact on public works
- Staff or APWA volunteer leader nomination; submission limited to 10 pages

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027

11:55 p.m. CT

Management Innovation Award

Recognizes a creative management system, program, workforce strategy, or process that improves public works service delivery and sustainability.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Individuals, teams, or organizations; APWA membership not required
- Innovation must be implemented, cost-effective, sustainable, and a significant advancement
- Explain the challenge, positive impact, operational efficiencies, and original approach
- Public agency or chapter nomination; submission limited to 10 pages

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027

11:55 p.m. CT

Technical Innovation Award

Recognizes a creative technical idea, material, design, equipment, process, or system that enhances public works service delivery.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Individuals, teams, or organizations; APWA membership not required
- Innovation must be implemented, cost-effective, sustainable, and not routine evolution
- Explain complexity, long-term public works benefits, efficiencies, and originality
- Public agency or chapter nomination; submission limited to 10 pages

DEADLINE

March 1, 2027

11:55 p.m. CT

Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award

Promotes excellence, best practices, and reduced environmental impacts in public works snow and ice operations.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY

- Public works agencies active in snow and ice operations; membership not required
- Prior winners must wait at least five years and show continuous improvement
- Criteria: materials, equipment, training, outreach, technology, and environment
- Managing agency or chapter nomination; supporting documentation limited to 20 pages

DEADLINE

December 1, 2026

11:55 p.m. CT

Deadlines shown are based on current APWA award pages. Verify all dates and requirements before submission.