Inland Empire Heroes Awards

Official Nomination Form

Nomination Deadline:

December 18, 2026

American Red Cross
Southern California Region

Inland Empire Heroes Awards Nomination Form

As the community leader in emergency preparedness, prevention and response, the American Red Cross honors individuals whose extraordinary acts of courage and kindness make them heroes. Heroes are selected based on the degree to which their acts of heroism uphold the values of the American Red Cross and leave a lasting and positive impact on the residents of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Award Categories

Animal Welfare Hero: Presented to an animal that has protected a human or another animal in a time of need, to a person who has rescued an animal from a traumatic situation, to an animal that is making a difference to impact someone's life, or to an individual that cares for animals.

Corporate Hero: A business or organization that has contributed significantly to the American Red Cross mission and made a positive impact in our community.

Disaster Services Hero: An individual or an organization that has exhibited heroic efforts in any or all of the areas of disaster services, including preparedness, response or recovery during a natural disaster or emergency situation through mission-driven response assistance to people in need.

First Responder Hero: Presented to a professional or volunteer serving as a law enforcement official, firefighter, first responder or responder in the medical or healthcare field. This award is presented to a person or persons who has exhibited heroism in their response to an emergency, on or off-duty, through acts of courage or selflessness.

Gift of Life Hero: An individual or group that supports the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross through blood or platelet donations or inspiring others to give blood or platelets.

Good Samaritan Hero: Presented to a person that has demonstrated outstanding heroism, skill, commitment or resourcefulness in attempt to save one or more lives by utilizing skills aligned with those taught in Red Cross programs such as CPR/AED/First Aid or other health and preparedness training.

Service to the Armed Forces Hero: Presented to a member or members of the armed forces (active or veteran, commissioned or non-commissioned) whose heroic action(s) demonstrated exceptional courage or improved the welfare of the military community. This award may be presented posthumously and may also be awarded to ROTC members or civilians/ organizations that have made a significant impact on the military community.

Youth Hero (age 18 or younger): Presented to a youth in the community who has demonstrated courage, initiative and/or compassion in the spirit of the American Red Cross in service to another individual or the welfare of the region.

Award Guidelines and Requirements

- All nominees must work or reside in Riverside or San Bernardino County. The heroic act may have occurred elsewhere.
- The heroic act must be either an ongoing commitment to the community for more than one year, or must have occurred this year or the previous year.
- It is possible to have more than one person awarded in a category for the same act.
- This year's Class of Heroes will be selected by the Heroes Selection Committee based on hero merit, availability for filming and award acceptance and adherence to Red Cross fundamental principles.
- Nominees may meet the criteria for more than one category or be moved to a different category at the discretion of the Selection Committee during deliberation.

For more information, contact us at socalevents@redcross.org or 949-226-2348.

Heroes Nomination Form

Nominate Your Hero Today!

Nomination Deadline:

December 18, 2026

Hero Nominee Information:

Name

Occupation

Address

City

State Zip

Phone

Email

County of Residence

Hero Nominator Information (You!):

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Phone

Email

Relationship to Nominee

Does your nominee know they are being nominated? _____ yes _____ no

American Red Cross
Southern California Region

Award Categories (select one):

Animal Welfare Hero

Corporate Hero

Disaster Services Hero

First Responder Hero

Gift of Life Hero

Good Samaritan Hero

Service to the Armed Forces Hero

Youth Hero

To Nominate Your Hero:

Your nomination should include:

1. Nominations should include all the requested contact information.
2. Description explaining why your hero deserves to be recognized (500 words or less). If able, include names and contact information for witnesses whom we can contact for additional information and/or verification as needed.
3. Please include supporting documents such as related news articles and photographs, if available.

Submit your nomination form by mail, email or online:

American Red Cross
Attn: Karyssa Heggie
600 Parkcenter Dr., Santa Ana, CA 92705
Email: socalevents@redcross.org
Online: redcross.org/ieheroes

Nomination Statement

Please describe in 500 words or less what makes your nominee a hero.
You can attach news clips or photographs to your nomination package.