

JAYCEE HONORARY AWARDS

How do you say “thank you” to a Jaycee who has continually given unselfishly of his or her time, talents, and energy to make your community a better place to live in over the years? That consistent and dedicated member who still leads, inspires and motivates their peers to make the collective and individual goals for their chapter, community, and themselves a reality? The answer is simple... acknowledge their outstanding service with the most appropriate of Junior Chamber’s honorary awards.

There are three honorary awards available to members of the Jaycees: Corps Colonel, Ambassador and Senator. A Jaycee presented with all three during the course of their Jaycee “career” is known as a “Triple Crown Recipient”

All three honorary awards have similar objectives -which are to recognize a Jaycee for outstanding service, provide financial resources for the benefit of the sponsor, and provide a continuing link with the Jaycee movement.

Honorary awards are sponsored by International, National, and State Junior Chamber organizations. Each award has different requirements and is considered the highest honorary award at each level of Junior Chamber structure. The award of Senator is sponsored by Junior Chamber International, Ambassador by United States Junior Chamber, and Cardinal Corps by the North Carolina Junior Chamber. These honors come as a result of many years of dedication, commitment and service to the Junior Chamber organization. The number of years of service required to be considered for Cardinal Corps is three, Ambassador four, and Senator is five.

Senatorship was an idea of 1952 Junior Chamber International President Phillip Pugsley.

It’s purpose remains to recognize outstanding accomplishments and service to Junior Chamber and humanity at all levels; to provide a subtle link of continuity and friendship with present and past members; and to strengthen the Jaycee movement.

When Pugsley became World President there was no JCI office, no secretariat, and meager financial resources. He set out to organize JCI finances. One of the sources of income would be from the Senatorship application fee. *President Phil asked the question “Why is it local Jaycee chapters spend thousands of dollars each year giving baubles in the form of trays, briefcases, desk sets, and the like to those they wish to honor - when the same funds given to Junior Chamber International could work miracles in the cause of freedom, a cause in which we all believe?”*

So, the first senatorship was set at \$50. It was introduced and approved into JCI by-

laws at the VII World Congress in Melbourne , Australia, September of 1952. The success of the Senator program made it possible to hire the first JCI Secretary General in 1953.

Internationally, local Jaycees in a majority of 124 nations affiliated with Junior Chamber International sponsor the Senator Award. The *United States* JCI Senate was organized in 1972 to promote the program in our nation. The *North Carolina* JCI Senate was chartered in 1975 to promote Senatorship at our state level.

The North Carolina Jaycees have maintained a full or part time Executive Director due in part to human and financial support from our JCI Senators. Senators also routinely assist Jaycee chapters as “mentors” providing guidance, training, and manpower when requested. In addition, the Senate also assists in recruiting new members, occasionally hosting an annual awards convention and judging various competitions, and sponsor our Family of the Year Program. North Carolina’s Senators also hold an annual reverse raffle which raises thousands of dollars for the state organization.

Applications for nominees are reviewed by the Senate and require the signatures, consideration and approval of the local, state, and national Jaycee presidents, three separate fees totaling \$425.00, and a detailed accounting of the nominee's exemplary service for a minimum of five active years in good standing in the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The number of Senatorships awarded worldwide since September, 1952 currently exceeds 68,000 per JCI records. The Senatorship honor continues to this day to link outstanding past Jaycees around the world and to provide resources for Junior Chamber organizations at all levels.

The Ambassador Honor Program was introduced in 1976. This award is U.S. Junior Chamber's highest honor. The program goals in part, are not only to recognize outstanding members past and present, but also to allow a method of building and maintaining a permanent record of those persons as part of Junior Chamber heritage.

As mentioned previously, one criterion required for consideration of an Ambassador Award is a minimum 4 years active membership in the Jaycees. A record of outstanding service and involvement is also required. An official application must be submitted to explain the extent of the nominee's Junior Chamber involvement (activities, awards, offices, length of affiliation) as well as community involvement outside of the Junior Chamber organization.

This program gives an opportunity to provide recipients with official recognition by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce as a testament to their outstanding achievement. Fees for the Ambassador program provide funding for U.S. Junior Chamber Programs and for developing new personal growth programs. *Currently the application fee for this honor is \$125.00*

The Corps Award Program - the North Carolina Jaycees' highest award is that of Cardinal Corps. The Corps Honorary Award was developed to recognize outstanding Jaycee members for their contributions to the local and state organizations. Corps honorees focus on having fun while supporting the Jaycees-- in part by keeping friendships alive among past and present members, and also by facilitating fundraising projects and events to financially benefit the state organization's priority programs. At convention this past January, the Cardinal Corps made donations to the Boys & Girls' Home, The NC Jaycee Burn Center, and the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Treatment Center in support of the NC Jaycees' commitment to these priority projects. The Cardinal Corps also offers assistance to chapters by providing speakers, and volunteering manpower for projects and training needs statewide.

The first state to organize a corps was Georgia on May 17, 1958. Following Georgia were Tennessee, Texas, Alabama, California, and Louisiana. North Carolina formed its corps in 1988. Corps members are known as "Colonels," and each state has its own unique identification or nickname. Georgia is known as the "Rebel Corps", Alabama the "Brigade", Florida the Gators, Texas the Rattlesnake, Maryland the Crab, Tennessee the Volunteer; Virginia's is The Corps of Virginia Gentlemen, and North Carolina, of course, is the Cardinal Corps. Today, there are a total of 29 corps in the U.S. coalition of corps.

Requirements for Corps membership in North Carolina are that the individual must have rendered outstanding contributions to the Jaycees; and if a regular member, must have been *active* and in good standing for a minimum of three years. If a former Jaycee, they must have been an active member in good standing of the NC Jaycees for at least three years.

In addition to being a NC Jaycee, a nominee must have accumulated a minimum of 30 points during his or her Jaycee career. Points are earned by being involved: Local projects chaired and offices held; state programs participated in, training received or given, and state officer positions held; and national and/or international involvement. Each *application* for membership must be approved by a local president (or chairman of the board if the president is the nominee). *The application fee for Cardinal Corps is \$75 (or \$50 if already a Senator).*

Recognition programs are a fundamental part of the Jaycee movement. Local Jaycees are strongly encouraged to say "thank you" to members who have made outstanding

contributions by conferring a Corps, Ambassador, or Senator Award when appropriate to do so. In addition, active Senator and Corps recipients - regardless of age - will have a permanent link to their beloved Jaycees for as long as they're willing and able!

Honorees who continue in unselfish service and efforts in support of the advancement of the Junior Chamber movement should be considered for all three of the honorary awards when the appropriate requirements are met.

Thank you.

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