



NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY COMMUNITY STARS FAQ

Q: *What is National Rural Health Day and the Community Stars initiative?*

National Rural Health Day (NRHD) was founded by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH). NRHD is an opportunity to “Celebrate the Power of Rural” by honoring the selfless, community-minded, “can do” spirit that prevails in rural America. NOSORH and those who participate in NRHD aim to transform the annual event into a year-long and ongoing movement. The Community Star initiative shines a spotlight on individuals and organizations working every day to close gaps, open doors, address challenges, and develop solutions through collaboration, education, innovation, and communication.

Q: *Who is eligible to be nominated for a National Rural Health Day 2018 Community Star?*

The most important nominee criteria is that it be an individual (or organization) currently working and serving rural communities and either directly or indirectly supporting rural health collaboration, communication, education, or innovation. Past nominees have included rural health physicians, nurses and other providers, hospital administrators, board members, volunteers, health clinic personnel, first responders, and others promoting health and wellness through a civic or community organization.

Q: *Who can nominate a Community Star?*

Any person with a close connection to the nominee and familiar with their rural health work and contributions are eligible to make a nomination. Self-nominations are not eligible.

Q: *How will individuals and organizations be notified that they have been nominated as a 2018 NRHD Community Star?*

Once a nomination is received, reviewed, and determined to meet eligibility requirements, the Community Star nominee, their nominator(s), and the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) where the nominee works/resides will be contacted via email by the Community Star Project Coordinator. At this stage, nominees will be asked to complete and submit a participation authorization form. Those who agree to participate will then be guided through the remainder of the process.

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Have Further Questions? Contact:

bcorsaro@powerofrural.org

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Q: After a Community Star Nominee completes their participation authorization form, what are the next steps?

On National Rural Health Day, NOSORH will publish the 2018 Community Stars eBook which is a collection of selected nominee stories. To develop the stories, the Community Star Project Coordinator will provide each nominee with a link to an online questionnaire (also available as a pdf document if requested.) The questionnaire will provide the Community Star eBook writer and design team with information needed to develop Community Star story profiles. In some cases, the nominee may be asked to participate in a phone interview as well.

Once the Community Star's profile has been developed and prepared for inclusion in the eBook, they will be asked to review the file for accuracy.

Finally, approximately a week before NRHD, each Community Star and their respective SORH office will receive a draft of a press release and social media post for their use in promoting their Community Star accomplishment.

Q: Is there a fee for nominating or participating in the NRHD Community Star program?

No.

Q: How are nominees selected to be included in the final Community Star eBook?

Eligible nominations are evaluated for their work as it relates to the Power of Rural mission. When completing a nomination, be sure to highlight their work that demonstrates outstanding efforts in the categories of collaborate, communicate, educate, and innovate.

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Q: Will the Community Star receive an award? Will there be an event or gathering of Community Stars?

Selected Community Stars are included in the eBook released on November 15, 2018, National Rural Health Day. There are no monetary or memento awards; however, NOSORH actively shares news about Community Stars with media and social media outlets.

State Offices of Rural Health, the nominee's employer, and the community where they serve, are all encouraged to promote their selected Community Star by hosting a local celebration or recognition ceremony, sharing the news through social media, or inviting their press contacts to cover their hometown star's story.

Read the National Rural Health Day Community Star eBook available on PowerofRural.org for a limited time!

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