



California League of Park Associations Awards Criteria 2026

Park Partner Award

Objective: To recognize a California State Parks Nonprofit Cooperating Association, Park Operator or Concessionaire that exemplifies the spirit of partnership, collaboration, and innovation.

Selection criteria:

1. Must be a member in good standing with CALPA.
2. Nomination must be co-supported by CALPA and the Partnership Office of California State Parks.
3. Organizations should demonstrate one or more of the following:
 - a. Excelled in defining and meeting the partnership needs of California State Parks.
 - b. Provided innovative and sustainable solutions to a defined State Park need.
 - c. Created paths that enhance the visitor experience.
 - d. The Park Partner Award can recognize either a remarkable achievement or sustained superior service to our California State Parks.
4. Nomination process: Nominations will be accepted from park partners and state park staff. Award winners will be chosen from the nominees by a panel of board members. Awards will be presented at the biennial CALPA conference or partnership training.

Volunteer-Based Project Award

Objective: The Volunteer-Based Project Award recognizes a singular accomplishment that advances the mission of California State Parks.

Selection criteria:

1. Nominated organizations should demonstrate one or more of the following:

- a. Project completed by a volunteer-based organization or volunteer group within a park partner organization.
 - b. Project was recognized through the annual State Park planning process.
 - c. Project is complete.
2. Nomination process: Nominations will be accepted from park partners and state park staff. Award winners will be chosen from the nominees by a panel of board members. Awards will be presented at the biennial CALPA conference or partnership training.

State Park Partnership Award

Objective: The State Park Partnership Award recognizes a California State Parks employee for outstanding accomplishments in championing, cultivating, and leading a partnership.

Selection criteria:

1. Must be a current or past employee of California State Parks.
2. Nominee should demonstrate one or more of the following:
 - a. Provide sustained superior service to a member organization of CALPA in meeting the missions of both organizations.
 - b. Develop or strengthen a collaborative partnership that increases the partner organization's impact on California State Parks.
3. Nomination process: Nominations will be accepted from park partners and state park staff. Award winners will be chosen from the nominees by a panel of board members. Awards will be presented at the biennial CALPA conference or partnership training.

Legacy Award

Objective: The Legacy Award recognizes an individual or organization for sustained leadership in support of the mission of California State Parks over a long period of time that has amplified the work of State Park partnerships.

Selection criteria:

1. Nominated individuals or organizations should demonstrate one or more of the following:
 - a. Sustained support for the mission of California State Parks.
 - b. History of supporting State Park Cooperating Associations and other park partners in remarkable ways that have created lasting and sustainable impact on both the organizations and our parks.
2. Nomination process: Nominations will be accepted from park partners and state park staff. Award winners will be chosen from the nominees by a panel of board members. Awards will be presented at the biennial CALPA conference or partnership training.