

2026 SC Crime Stoppers Awards & Criteria

How nominees are evaluated (for Coordinator / Board / Unit awards)

Nominees should demonstrate excellence in **at least 3 of the 6 areas** listed under the applicable award. Programs and units vary in size and structure; nominees are evaluated on **impact, professionalism, consistency, and “above and beyond” contribution**, not simply raw volume.

Coordinator Excellence Award

Coordinator of the Year — Areas of Excellence

Tip Management & Responsiveness

Demonstrates a consistent, professional tip-handling process that supports investigators and protects anonymity. Shows timely routing/forwarding and reliable documentation practices appropriate to the program’s model.

Case Support / Impact

Helps tips become actionable leads and supports case progress or outcomes through strong coordination and appropriate follow-up. Demonstrates impact through confirmed examples where possible.

Community Outreach & Public Trust (including social media)

Builds awareness and trust through consistent outreach, clear “how to tip” messaging, and responsible social media/community engagement. Maintains professionalism and confidentiality in all public-facing work.

Operational Excellence & Process Streamlining

Improves the program’s day-to-day function through organized records, clear workflows, and dependable follow-through. Reduces bottlenecks and strengthens consistency so the program runs smoothly.

Innovation, Technology & New Ideas

Uses practical tools and new ideas to modernize operations and outreach, improving efficiency and accessibility. Creates solutions or materials that are replicable and strengthen program performance.

Training, Mentorship & Capacity Building

Strengthens capability by providing or coordinating training for law enforcement partners, board members, and volunteers. Builds continuity through job aids, mentoring, and knowledge-sharing.

Board Leadership Excellence Award

Board Member of the Year — Areas of Excellence

Governance & Integrity

Strengthens accountability, transparency, and ethical stewardship through sound governance practices. Helps protect confidentiality and public trust.

Fundraising / Sponsorship / Resource Development

Advances the mission by securing resources, sponsors, or sustainable funding support. Demonstrates strong stewardship and relationship-building with supporters.

Strategic Leadership & Problem Solving

Identifies real challenges and helps deliver solutions that improve program stability and effectiveness. Contributes meaningfully to planning, risk management, and decision-making.

Volunteer Service & Execution

Consistently takes ownership of work and delivers tangible results—events, outreach, logistics, materials, or operations support. Demonstrates reliability and follow-through.

Community Engagement & Advocacy

Expands Crime Stoppers visibility and trust through partnerships and public engagement. Represents the program professionally and helps grow community buy-in.

Support of Coordinator & Law Enforcement Partnership

Strengthens the working relationship between board, coordinator, and law enforcement partners. Helps align expectations, reduce friction, and support operational success.

Endorsement note: If the nominee is the **Board President**, an endorsement may be provided by another **Executive Officer** (Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer).

Law Enforcement Partnership Excellence Award

Law Enforcement Unit of the Year — Areas of Excellence

Tip Utilization & Follow-Through

Demonstrates a consistent unit-level process to receive, assign, act on, and document tip follow-up. Treats Crime Stoppers tips as a meaningful investigative input.

Communication & Coordination with the Program

Maintains dependable communication with the coordinator/program and appropriately closes the loop when possible. Establishes clear points of contact and professional collaboration.

Support of Public Messaging & Trust

Supports responsible public messaging that encourages anonymous reporting while protecting case integrity. Participates in outreach efforts that build community trust.

Investigative Impact

Shows meaningful results where Crime Stoppers tips contributed to arrests, recoveries, rescues, major leads, or case progress. Highlights impact in a way that protects sensitive details.

Professionalism & Confidentiality

Handles tip information responsibly and protects tipster anonymity. Demonstrates professional conduct that strengthens public confidence in the partnership.

Collaboration & Support

Invests in partnership through trainings, shared initiatives, and practical support of the local Crime Stoppers program. Helps improve systems and outcomes beyond individual cases.

Special Awards

Best Crime Stoppers Success Story Award

Recognizes the most compelling Crime Stoppers success story of the year, where a tip(s) contributed to a meaningful public-safety outcome (arrest, recovery, rescue, disruption, major lead, or closure). Story submissions must protect anonymity and be verified by law enforcement.

President's Award for Extraordinary Service

A special recognition selected solely by the Council President to honor an individual, unit, or partner who provided extraordinary support to Crime Stoppers and the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council. This award may recognize exceptional statewide assistance, behind-the-scenes leadership, crisis support, or any contribution that clearly exceeded expectations and strengthened the mission.