

# Blue Star Neighbor Award 2017

## Rules & Regulations

### Program Overview:

Blue Star Families (BSF) strengthens military families and our nation by connecting communities and fostering leadership. We accomplish this through local chapter-based community events and by serving as a bridge between families and support and service organizations that are striving to help make military life more sustainable. Through outreach and involvement with national and local organizations, civilian communities, government entities, and corporations, Blue Star Families works hand-in-hand to share the pride of service, promote healthier families, aid in military readiness and contribute to our country's strength. One area of primary focus for Blue Star Families is bridging the gap between military families and their civilian communities. In an effort to recognize community members that have gone above and beyond in supporting military families, we are proud to announce the launch of our Blue Star Neighbors' Recognition Award 2017. With our third annual award being presented at our Blue Star Neighbor Celebration in March 2017, we look forward to the opportunity to highlight the incredible stories of civilians who have reached out to military families and provided much-appreciated support during times of need.

### Eligibility Requirements:

In order to be considered for the 2017 Blue Star Neighbor Award, nominees must meet all of the following requirements:

- Must be a legal resident of the United States of America.
- Must not currently be employed, or be an immediate family member (i.e., spouse, mother, father, sister, brother, daughter, or son) or member of the same household (whether related or not), of any such employee or any major BSF funders\*.
- Must currently reside in the continental United States of America;
- Must be able to attend the awards presentation in Washington D.C. on March 22, 2017.
- Must be at least the age of majority in his/her state of residence as of March 1, 2017.

### Nominators must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a legal resident of the United States of America.
- Must have served, or be the spouse of someone who served, on Active Duty, or in the Guard or Reserve within the 14 years prior to March 1, 2017.

- Must not currently be employed, or the immediate family member (spouse, child or legal ward) of someone currently employed, by BSF or any major BSF funders\*. However, BSF volunteers are eligible to submit nominations.
- Must currently reside in the continental United States of America.
- Must be at least the age of majority in his/her state of residence as of March 1, 2017.

\*Ineligible major BSF funders include The Walt Disney Company, USAA, Hunt Companies, AT&T, Veterans United, Facebook, Rent-a-Center, MetLife, La Quinta Inns & Suites, Starbucks and The LINK Foundation.

#### Nomination Timeline:

- Nomination period is from 1 November 2016 at 12:01AM EST through 31 December 2016 at 11:59PM EST.
- Nominations must be received by BSF no later than 11:59PM EST on 31 December 2016 for consideration for the 2017 Blue Star Neighbor Award.
- 5 Finalists will be announced on or about 15 January 2017.
- Finalists will be required to complete additional questions by 31 January 2017 at 12:01AM EST.
- Our Executive Director and/or CEO will notify the winner on or about 15 February 2017.
- Runner-up will be named and notified in the case of the unavailability of any finalist.
- The winner as well as his/her nominator must be available to travel to be present at the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on 22 March 2017.

#### Selection Team Criteria:

The nominations will be collected via our online form found at <http://bluestarfam.org/neighbors>. Once collected, our Blue Star Neighbor Selection Committee will rate the submissions based on a number of criteria. This committee is comprised of the Director of Community Development, the Senior Advisor for Outreach and Events, the BSF Executive Director, and one member of the BSF Board of Directors. The finalist and the award winner will be selected based on the nominee's success in bridging the gap between military families and civilians. Specific selection criteria include:

- Innovative approaches to supporting military families during times of need.
- Number of people impacted by their outreach efforts.
- Number of hours dedicated to supporting their local military families.
- Additional ideas/approaches to expanding the nominee's reach to other military-impacted communities.

#### Nomination Packet Guidelines:

- All BSF members may submit nomination packets.
- “Neighbors” may not submit awards packets for themselves.
- Nominations packets must include a fully completed Award Nomination Form, not to exceed two pages.
- Deadlines for submitting nominations: 31 December 2016
- Incomplete or late packages cannot be accepted.
- Once submitted, all nominations become the sole property of Blue Star Families.

#### Award Information:

- Finalists will be announced on or about 15 January 2017.
- The award winner will be announced on or about 15 February 2017.
- The award winner (as well as his/her nominator) will receive one \$250 gift card, roundtrip airfare for the winner and his/her nominator to Washington D.C. to attend the Blue Star Neighbor Celebration, hotel accommodations for 2 nights, local travel to/from the hotel from the airport and to the award celebration event, and food/beverage expenses incurred on their trip (not to exceed the government per diem rate per person, i.e., \$295). The total approximate retail value of the prize package is \$6,571. The winner and his/her nominator be solely responsible for any and all expenses and incidental travel costs not expressly stated in the trip description above, including but not limited to any and all ground transportation, gasoline, tolls, parking, meals and beverages, in-room charges (e.g., mini-bar, room service, laundry service, telephone, internet, movies), gratuities, travel upgrades, baggage fees, and personal incidentals. Winner and nominator will be required to provide a valid major credit or debit card upon hotel check-in and all in-room charges, meals and beverages (to the extent they exceed the per diem stated above), hotel upgrades, amenities, personal incidentals and any other expenses charged to the winner’s hotel room will be charged to the winner’s major valid credit card or debit card provided.
- The award winner must finalize travel with Blue Star Families three to four weeks prior to March 22, 2016
- The winner may not substitute the prize for its cash equivalent. BSF reserves the right to substitute any or all of the prizes with any article or service of similar or greater value at its sole discretion. Prizes may not be assigned or transferred.
- Taxes (federal, state, and local) are the sole responsibility of the winner (and of the nominator for his/her portion thereof).
- BSF’s Blue Star Neighbor Award recipient and his/her nominator will coordinate all airplane travel and hotel accommodations with our Blue Star Neighbor Program Manager. The winner and his/her nominator must travel on dates designated by BSF. In the event winner and nominator cannot travel on the dates designated by BSF, the

winner will be disqualified and BSF will select another winner from among the finalists. Winner and his/her nominator will be required to sign and return a travel release before any ticketing of travel occurs.

- BSF's Blue Star Neighbor will be highlighted on BSF's Facebook and web pages.

#### Questions/Mailing Information:

- For questions or additional clarification, please email [sguardia@bluestarfam.org](mailto:sguardia@bluestarfam.org)
- All completed application packages should be submitted via our online form no later than the designated deadlines. BSF is not responsible for incorrect or inaccurate transcription of entry information, technical malfunctions, lost/delayed data transmission, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, failures of any network, computer equipment, software, inability to access any online service or web site, inability to submit the online nomination or entry forms, or any other error or malfunction, or any injury or damage to participant's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation or downloading any materials in this contest, or for late, lost, stolen, illegible or misdirected entries. If this contest or any website associated therewith (or any portion thereof) becomes corrupted or otherwise does not permit entry in the contest, or if infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, actions by participants, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes, in BSF's sole opinion, corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper operation of this contest, BSF reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual implicated in such action, and/or to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend this contest or any portion thereof.
- By participating, nominators and nominees agree: (a) to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the person or persons who select the finalists and the winner, and (b) to release and hold harmless BSF, its affiliates, subsidiaries, and independent contractors, and their respective directors, officers, employees, and agents, including advertising and promotion agencies, from any and all liability with respect to acceptance, possession or use (or misuse) of the prizes or participation in this contest.
- By participating in this contest, each participant and nominator agrees that: (a) any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of or connected with this promotion or any prizes awarded shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and exclusively by the appropriate courts located in the state of New York, NY; (b) any and all claims, judgments and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering this contest.