



HEART OF CHESAPEAKE COUNTRY HERITAGE AREA

2025 Heritage Awards Nomination Guidelines

The Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area (HCCHA) is a state-certified program with the purpose of stimulating economic development through heritage tourism. Each year, the Heritage Area Management Board recognizes the accomplishments of our community partners by presenting awards in three distinct categories: Outstanding Project, Organizational Excellence, and Volunteer of the Year.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Outstanding Project

This award recognizes an exceptional project, event, or activity conducted/sponsored by an organization, business, individual or local government that highlights Dorchester's natural or cultural heritage and/or increases public awareness of its history, heritage, and cultural traditions.

Criteria:

- Any project in Dorchester County that preserves or promotes cultural heritage and enriches community life, including restoration, revitalization or rehabilitation of property; or
- Any heritage-related event that promotes cultural heritage and enriches community life; or
- Projects that show demonstrated stewardship of natural resources; or
- Projects that show significant achievement in oral histories, exhibits, publications, and/or programs.

Organizational Excellence

This award recognizes a non-profit organization or local government entity that demonstrates sustained achievement in contributing to heritage preservation, promotion, interpretation or tourism efforts.

Criteria:

- Sponsoring outstanding heritage interpretation or tourism products, including exhibits, tours, websites, programming, etc.
- Providing sustained contributions to the community's heritage, such as actively participating in preservation efforts, promoting resource stewardship, encouraging advocacy, etc.

Caroline Cline Volunteer of the Year

This award is named in honor of former East New Market Mayor Caroline Cline, who also was a founding member of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area Management Board. The award honors an individual for service and contributions as a volunteer supporting local history or heritage tourism.

Criteria:

- An individual who has shown responsibility and initiative as a volunteer.
- Going above and beyond to make a positive impact on HCCHA heritage tourism.
- Demonstrated advocacy for preserving Dorchester County's rich history and heritage.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Online nominations are due no later than midnight on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

Complete an online nomination form (<https://visitdorchester.org/heritage-area/nomination-form>), and upload any supporting documents.

SELECTION & PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The Heritage Area Management Board will be reviewing all nominations and voting on the winners in each category. The formal announcement of the award winners will take place at the Annual Heritage Awards Event scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025. These awards of distinction are made possible through the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area Management Board with the support of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.