



YOVASO 2024 Traffic Safety Awards And School Recognition



It is important to bring recognition to our member clubs and schools for helping save young lives on Virginia's highways.

YOVASO's annual Awards Program is held each year during the Summer Leadership Retreat to recognize exemplary youth traffic safety programs and to challenge our member high schools to strive for excellence in their peer-to-peer clubs. The awards are designed to recognize all levels of involvement, from new high school clubs just starting their traffic safety programs to veteran high school clubs working towards earning ribbons for Outstanding Club Recognition.

Award Categories:

Programming Awards (Recognizes innovation and creativity, effectiveness in reaching and engaging the student body, and student leadership in developing and implementing the program.)

★ **Occupant Protection Award**

In recognition of a member club's outstanding programs and activities to encourage safety belt use among youth and teens. Award may recognize one exceptional program or a body of work.

Winner: Amelia County High School, Amelia Co.

★ **Impaired Driving Prevention Award**

In recognition of a member club's outstanding programs and activities to encourage Zero Tolerance and to prevent impaired driving among teens. Award may recognize one exceptional program or a body of work.

Winner: Union High School, Wise Co.

★ **Distracted Driving Prevention Award**

In recognition of a member club's outstanding programs to prevent distracted driving among young drivers. Award may recognize one exceptional program or a body of work.

Winner: Abingdon High School, Washington Co.

Speed Prevention Award

In recognition of a member club's outstanding programs to prevent speed-related crashes among young drivers. Award may recognize one exceptional program or a body of work.

Winner: Poquoson High School, Poquoson City

Club/Chapter Awards

★ **Speaking Out and Saving Lives Award**

In recognition of a member club's spirit and commitment for engaging students throughout the school year in a variety of creative programs and activities that encourage safe and responsible driving and traffic safety. Award recognizes efforts that span the school year, including participation in all annual YOVASO traffic safety campaigns.

Winner: Halifax County High School, Halifax Co.

★ **New YOVASO Club of the Year**

In recognition of a new member club for its work to encourage safe teen driving and traffic safety during its first year. Award recognizes efforts to recruit diverse membership, establish club goals and best practices, complete member training, and begin participation in YOVASO campaigns and safety programs.

Winner: Abingdon High School, Washington Co.

★ **YOVASO Club of the Year**

In recognition of a member club for establishing and setting the standard for best practices in peer-led youth traffic safety programs. Award recognizes excellence in student leadership and club development, community outreach, engagement of the student body, effectiveness of programming, and participation in YOVASO campaigns and retreats.

Winner: REACH Homeschool Group

Outstanding Club Recognition

In recognition of member clubs that have previously received the Club of the Year Award and continue to maintain the same high level of performance and best practices for peer-to-peer traffic safety programs. Clubs that are recognized for continued excellence will receive an Outstanding Club plaque during the first year of achieving this status. For each subsequent year of achieving this honor, clubs will receive a ribbon to be attached to the original plaque.

Winners: Liberty High School (6th year), Louisa County High School (5th year), Staunton River High School (3rd year), Halifax County High School (2nd year), Fluvanna County High School (2nd year), and REACH Homeschool Group (2nd year)

★ **New Middle School Club of the Year**

In recognition of a member club for establishing and setting the standard for best practices in peer-led youth traffic safety programs in its first year. Award recognizes excellence in student leadership and club development, community outreach, engagement of the student body, effectiveness of programming, and participation in YOVASO campaigns and retreats.

Winner: William Byrd Middle School, Roanoke Co.

★ **Middle School Club of the Year**

In recognition of a member club for establishing and setting the standard for best practices in peer-led youth traffic safety programs. Award recognizes excellence in student leadership and club development, community outreach, engagement of the student body, effectiveness of programming, and participation in YOVASO campaigns and retreats.

Winner: Cave Spring Middle School, Roanoke Co.

Student Leadership Awards

★ **Student Volunteer of the Year**

In recognition of a student for outstanding service to his/her YOVASO club through volunteer hours to plan, implement, and work on youth traffic safety programs in the school and community. Schools may wish to record volunteer hours on service projects to use in nominating students.

Winner: Haylee Throckmorton, Halifax County High School, Halifax Co.

★ **Rock Star Award**

In recognition of a student who demonstrates enthusiasm and excitement in his/her school and community for promoting safe teen driving and passenger safety. This student is a champion for the cause and a vocal role model within the school and community.

Winner: Windsor Kanazawa, REAC Homeschool Group, Fredericksburg City

Youth Leadership Award

In recognition of a YOVASO Youth Advisory Council (YAC) student who demonstrates exemplary leadership skills and a commitment to working on safe teen driving and youth traffic safety programs at the local and state level. The student leads and takes an active role with his/her school club, with YAC, and with the Summer Leadership Retreat.

Winner: Jaxon Tyler, Charles J. Colgan Sr. High School, Prince William Co.

Club Sponsor/Advisor Awards

★ **New YOVASO Sponsor of the Year (Teacher Advisor)**

In recognition of a teacher's outstanding support and guidance to the school's traffic safety club during the teacher's first year as advisor for the club.

Winner: Kimberly Gordon, Halifax County High School, Halifax Co.

★ **YOVASO Sponsor of the Year (Teacher Advisor)**

In recognition of a teacher's ongoing support and guidance to the school's traffic safety club and commitment to striving for excellence in club growth and development.

Winner: Robin Gary, Amelia Co. High School, Amelia Co.

★ **Middle School Sponsor of the Year (Teacher Advisor)**

In recognition of a teacher's ongoing support and guidance to the school's traffic safety club and commitment to striving for excellence in club growth and development.

Winner: Audrey Hamilton, Forest Middle School, Bedford Co.

Law Enforcement / School Resource Officer Awards

★ **New School Resource Officer of the Year**

In recognition of an SRO's outstanding support and guidance to the school's traffic safety club during his/her first year as an SRO at the school or first year advising the YOVASO Club

Winner: Master Deputy Amy Molinares, Westmoreland High School

★ **Middle School School Resource Officer of the Year**

In recognition of an SRO's continuous and outstanding support and guidance to the school's traffic safety club as an SRO at the school or advising the YOVASO Club

Winner: Officer Justin Hubbard, Cave Spring Middle School, Roanoke Co.

★ **Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**

In recognition of a law enforcement officer's exemplary efforts and programs to encourage traffic safety among youth in the community, region, and/ or state. May also recognize a law enforcement officer (other than a SRO) for exemplary support of YOVASO programs and/or a peer-to-peer traffic safety club.

Winner: Sgt. Richard Garletts, Virginia State Police, Salem Division

★ **School Administrator of the Year**

In recognition of a school administrator for outstanding support and guidance to the school's peer-to-peer traffic safety club at the high school or middle school level

Winner: Wanda Sloper, REACH Homeschool Group, Orange Co.

Other Awards

★ **Steven D. Goodwin Lifetime Achievement Award:** *In recognition of an individual who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to youth traffic safety and the prevention of crashes, injuries, and fatalities among young drivers and passengers.*

Winner: Deputy Jennifer Underwood, Eastern Montgomery High School, Montgomery Co.

★ **YOVASO Shining Star Award**

In recognition of an individual and/or families impacted by a crash who demonstrate courage in speaking out in order to help save young lives.

Winner: Deputy Brad Hughes, Powhatan County Sheriff's Office

★ **YOVASO Business Award**

In recognition of a business for dedication to the safety of youth and teens in the commonwealth through generous support of YOVASO

Winner: Aaron's Towing, Fauquier Co.