



# AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

## Young Optometrist of the Year Award

The American Optometric Association (AOA) Young Optometrist of the Year Award recognizes those optometrists in their first decade of practice who show leadership skills when serving their profession, their patients and their community.

### NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- Nominees must be in active optometric practice for 10 years or less (including residency or fellowship). **Age is not a criteria for this award.**
- Nominee must be an AOA member in good standing.
- Current AOA employees, AOA paid consultants, AOA members of the Board, and current members of the Awards Committee are **NOT** eligible for consideration.

### WHO CAN NOMINATE?

State associations and AOA members may submit nominations.

### NOMINATION CHECKLIST ✓

- Online Nomination Form**, which includes:
  - Individual Nominee's Resume:** Include the nominee's resume or biography describing their background.
  - Nomination Statement:** A written statement of 500-2,000 words explaining the primary reason the nominee should be named as the award recipient. In addition to noting basic dates, titles, years of service, etc., briefly describe the key accomplishments achieved by the nominee in various positions and volunteer posts.
  - Photo:** A current photograph must be included.
  - Supplements:** Supporting documentation, such as letters of recommendation or a curricula vitae, may be attached to the nomination statement; however, these are not a substitute for the content of the nomination statement which must clearly and thoroughly detail the nominee's accomplishments.

### DEADLINE

All nominations for the national award are due by **Monday, February 12.**

### JUDGING & SELECTION

The Young Optometrist of the Year Award recipient will be selected by the AOA Awards Committee, comprised of the five most recent available past presidents. Only one nominee per state will be considered in any one year.

A nominee can be resubmitted later if the candidate continues or demonstrates new service. If a suitable nominee is not selected by the panel, no award will be given that year.

The recipient will be honored at Optometry's Meeting.

Any questions can be directed to Yakesha Cooper, AOA Associate Director of Public Relations at [ycooper@aoa.org](mailto:ycooper@aoa.org).

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Nominees will be evaluated according to a point system allocated to three principal areas:

- **SERVICE TO OPTOMETRY** (40 point maximum)
  - Leadership roles (include titles and dates)
  - Major accomplishments
  - Initiating and/or implementing unique plan, program or action on behalf of optometry
  - Published professional articles or research findings
  - Outreach to potential students, or assistance to optometry students and/or recent
  
- **SERVICE TO THE VISUAL WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC** (35 point maximum)
  - With sight-saving groups or charities
  - Service efforts in the community
  - Participation in government health care programs
  
- **SERVICE TO AOA OR AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION** (25 point maximum)
  - Service as an officer, committee chair or member, etc.
  - Promotion of the association's goals and programs
  - Activity in support of association's projects
  - Involvement in public information activities (media spokesperson, etc.)