



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Young Optometrist of the Year Award

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

ELIGIBILITY

1. Nominee must be in active optometric practice 10 years or less (including residency or fellowship). *Age is not a criteria for this award.*
2. 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.****
3. Only affiliated association nominees are eligible and only one nominee per affiliated association will be considered in any one year. A nominee can be resubmitted in later years if the association has honored the nominee as a Young Optometrist of the Year and wishes to submit this nominee as its candidate due to continued or new service.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

The nomination must include the following elements:

1. [Online Nomination Form](#)
2. **Individual Nominee's Resume:** Include the nominee's resume or biography describing their background.
3. **Nomination Statement:** A type-written statement of at least 500 words (not to exceed 2,000 words) explaining the primary reason the nominee should be named as award recipient. In addition to noting basic facts (dates, titles, years of service, etc.) about the nominee's professional and volunteer history, briefly describe the key accomplishments achieved by the nominee in these various positions and volunteer posts.
4. **Photo:** A current head and shoulders photograph must be included.
5. **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.

NOMINATION DEADLINE

All nominations for the national award are due by **Monday, February 13** (no exceptions can be made). Any questions can be directed to Yakesha Cooper, AOA Associate Director of Public Relations at 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 graduates

- **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.)

JUDGING AND 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, and honored at Optometry's Meeting. In the event that a suitable nominee is not selected by the panel, no award will be given that year.