Issue Date: May 29, 2019

Deadline to Submit: July 15, 2019

Please submit proposals to:

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SHAPE America is seeking proposals from organizations interested in serving as a partner to support the SHAPE America Teacher of the Year program. We seek partners that truly believe in this program and are excited to help us celebrate the talents and accomplishments of SHAPE America Teachers of the Year. In addition, we seek partners that have capacity to provide financial/in-kind support to advance the mission of SHAPE America and collaborate to achieve mutually desired outcomes for the selected organization(s). The following information provides an overview of the process SHAPE America will undertake to identify a new partner (or partners) for the SHAPE America Teacher of the Year program:

* Request for Proposals for Partner(s) will be publicly solicited for the SHAPE America Teacher of the Year program;
* Multiple models for partnership/sponsorship and category exclusivity will be considered, and as such SHAPE America welcomes proposals for both sole sponsorship of the program or sponsorship of a category (i.e, health, elementary school, middle school, high school, adaptive or dance).
* Evaluation, qualification and award of proposals will be made in the best interest of SHAPE America and the teachers participating in the SHAPE America Teacher of the Year program, as determined by SHAPE America’s senior leadership team, at their sole discretion.

As noted, SHAPE America welcomes proposals from any organization aligned with our mission. Proposals may be for an exclusive sole partnership of the entire program, co-partnership with two non-competing entities, or to sponsor specific Teacher of the Year categories or specific program components (e.g., national award announcement reception, social/networking events for Teachers of the Year, equipment for presentations, travel, apparel, etc.). SHAPE America is open to different partnership models and will ultimately select a new partner(s) based on the best mutually beneficial fit for SHAPE America and the partnering organization(s), ensuring the needs of the teachers remain the highest priority of the program.

About the SHAPE America Teacher of the Year Program

Since its inception in 1983, the program provides the opportunity to shine a national spotlight on amazing, dedicated, talented teachers who are ready to take their ideas and skills to a national stage, to be shared with thousands of teachers across the country. It has proven time and time again to be a program that cultivates future leaders for SHAPE America and our 51 state affiliate organizations alike.

SHAPE America’s Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding teachers in the following categories:

* Physical Education – Elementary
* Physical Education – Middle School
* Physical Education - High School
* Adapted Physical Education
* School Health Education
* Dance Education

Individuals who are named Teacher of the Year by their state affiliate are eligible for SHAPE America’s District Teacher of the Year award. District winners are eligible for the national award.

SHAPE America Teacher of the Year Program Priorities

A key organizational priority for SHAPE America, including this program, is that moving forward we will remain focused on putting the TEACHER FIRST.

This is a unique time in our history and one that presents an opportunity for SHAPE America to improve, enhance and grow the Teacher of the Year program. To that end, we are convening several working groups that will help us examine the current state of the program and identify opportunities to make the program truly inclusive and accessible, while still maintaining a certain level of rigor that ensures only our very best teachers are recognized. These groups include members from our state affiliate leadership, our District leaders and awards chairs, and an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion taskforce recently appointed by the SHAPE America Board of Directors. These groups will also explore how the pipeline of competing teachers from the state program to the district and national levels may be strengthened.

Program Values and Essential Elements

* Uplift, celebrate and recognize district and national Teachers of the Year;
* Provide district and national Teachers of the Year with opportunities to share their special skills and interests and give back to the profession through presentations at the national, regional, and/or state-level conferences
* Cultivate capacity of district and national Teachers of the Year to become the next generation of leaders at both the state and national levels
* Provide mentorship opportunities of incoming Teachers of the Year through SHAPE America’s network of Teacher of the Year alumni

Opportunities for Program Involvement and Support

Program partnership offers unique opportunities to support health and physical education teachers, showcase and promote district and national Teachers of the Year through brand channels, and gain valuable brand visibility opportunities. Examples of opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

* Speaking/presentation opportunities related to the SHAPE America Teacher of the Year program
* Direct engagement with district and national SHAPE America Teachers of the Year
* Brand visibility and promotional opportunities through:
	+ The SHAPE America website;
	+ *Et Cetera*, SHAPE America’s bi-weekly e-newsletter
	+ *Momentum*, SHAPE America’s tri-annual member magazine
	+ SHAPE America social media channels
	+ Association with SHAPE America Teacher of the Year presentations during the SHAPE America National Convention & Expo and annual regional conference
* Showcase your support for excellence in teaching by recognizing/highlighting SHAPE America Teachers of the Year across your brand channels
* Recognition in letter notifications provided to principals and superintendents associated with Teacher of the Year award recipients

Qualifications and Interest of Prospective Partners

Please outline your interest and unique qualifications to support the Teacher of the Year program. Items to consider, include:

* How does your organization align with SHAPE America’s mission?
* How does your organization align with the SHAPE America Teacher of the Year categories?
* Explain why the SHAPE America Teacher of the Year program partnership is of interest and how you seek to support and add value to the program (e.g., brand/reputation, award-winning teachers, image, etc.)
* What type of partnership would be of most interest to your organization (e.g., exclusive/full program, co-sponsorship (with category exclusivity), specific award category(ies), or components of the program?
* Describe your organization’s intended and desired partnership strategy, including example messaging and proposed execution strategy.
* What types of metrics would your organization utilize to measure success of a partnership with SHAPE America?
* Please indicate the length of partnership term that your organization would consider (e.g., one-year, three-year, 5-year, etc.).
* Would your organization be willing to provide financial support as part of your partnership with us? Such support would be directed to several areas, including travel stipends for Teachers of the Year to present during national, regional and/or state-level conferences, and programmatic and advocacy work at SHAPE America. If yes, please indicate minimum/maximum level of financial investment feasible for your organization.
* Does your organization have capacity to support the program through in-kind investments? Examples of in-kind investments may include:
	+ Providing physical education equipment and/or health education resources for SHAPE America Teachers of the Year to utilize in national, regional and state-level conference presentations (equipment/resources are typically donated to a deserving local school at the conclusion of the presentation);
	+ Facilitate complimentary or discounted rates on SHAPE America Teacher of the Year apparel to be worn by Teachers of the Year when representing the program
	+ Highlighting SHAPE America Teachers of the Year via your organization’s communications channels, digital or print.