

Luther Halsey Gulick Medal



The Luther Halsey Gulick Medal, awarded for long and distinguished service to one or more of the professions represented by SHAPE America, is the highest honor the Association bestows on a member. One medal is presented annually at the national convention unless the committee agrees that no worthy candidate has been nominated for that year. The award was first bestowed by the Physical Education Society of New York City, as a means of memorializing Gulick's contribution to physical education. Money for this project came from a Society fund that had been originated by Gulick in 1904 to stimulate original study and writing by members of the Society. This plan did not succeed so the income from the original fund was used for the cost of the medals when the award was established in 1923.

R. Tait McKenzie executed the medal, a bust figure of a young man bearing an olive branch in one hand and wearing a wreath of victory on his head. The medallion bears the Latin inscription *Palman Qui Mervit Ferat*.

The first award quite appropriately was made posthumously in recognition of Dr. Gulick's services. The medallion was received by Mrs. Gulick at a special meeting of the Society.

The Physical Education Society of New York City continued to present the Gulick Award until 1929, after which the city association became inoperative. The Health Education Teachers Association awarded the honor twice, in 1939 and 1940; then on 3 February 1944, the responsibility was turned over to the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

Criteria for the Medal stipulate that the recipient shall:

1. Be clearly outstanding in his/her profession.
2. Exemplify the best in service, research, teaching and/or administration.
3. Be recognized by members of the association as a noteworthy leader.
4. Be the type of person whose life and contributions could inspire youth to live vigorously, courageously, and freely as citizens in a free society.

5. Currently be a member of SHAPE America and shall have held such membership for at least 10 years.
6. Have been formally recognized by his/her peers by some form of national award for outstanding professional contributions, e.g., a National Honor Award.

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Gulick, Luther Halsey, 1865–1918, American pioneer in physical education, b. Honolulu, of American missionary parents. He studied at Oberlin College, Sargent School of Physical Training (now part of Boston Univ.), and the New York Univ. medical college (M.D., 1889). From 1887 to 1903 he was secretary of the physical training department of the YMCA. He devised the emblem of the organization and, with James Naismith, originated the game of basketball. He was director of physical training in the New York City public schools from 1903 to 1908; in 1907 he founded the child hygiene department of the Russell Sage Foundation, directing it until his retirement in 1913. With others he founded (1910) the Camp Fire Girls movement.



Gulick also was among the founders and first presidents of several associations dedicated to physical education, such as the American Physical Education Association (president, 1903-1906), the Public School Training Society (president, 1905-1908), he helped to organize American School Hygiene Association in 1907, and the Playground and Recreation Society of America (president, 1906-1908).

He devoted much of his time to associations interested in hygiene and physical education, wrote several books in these fields, and lectured extensively. In 1917 he surveyed the work of the YMCA in France, returning to write his last and best-known book, *The Dynamic of Manhood* (1917).