



Public Law 96-114, The Congressional Award Act

Congressional Award

PREPARING FOR YOUR MEDAL PRESENTATION

Congratulations for earning your Congressional Award Medal! You have shown perseverance in goal setting, challenging yourself, and accomplishing new and unique activities. Please find below information about your presentation and what to expect moving forward in the program.

When will my presentation take place?

That depends. We notify each Congressional Office on a frequent basis regarding recent approvals in their districts. Some Congressional Offices make presentations as frequently as we approve Medalists while others ask that we hold their Medalists for an annual presentation. These presentations can take time to schedule – even if your Member’s office gets right back to us. On average, presentations take about four – six months to schedule, although again, this all depends on the Member’s Office. If you would like a status update on a presentation after this time period, please contact your Program Manager.

How will I be notified about a presentation?

Once a Member’s office contacts us, we coordinate the medal shipment along with other materials they may need for the presentation. We then recommend that they reach out directly to you all as you understand your schedule better than we do. We do provide the Member’s Office with the most updated contact information (address, phone and email). If you move or change this information, please let us know so the office can reach out.

If you reside in a region or district that hosts a larger presentation, you will be notified on average about six weeks before the presentation. This will include RSVP information. If you are unable to make the planned large event, please let us know how you would like your Medal presented (i.e. holding until the following year/presentation or we can mail the medal to you).

What will the presentation be like?

This also varies. Each Congressional Office is different. While some invite all Medalists into their District Office for a meet and greet, others will hold individual events in the District Office. Some even add a medal presentation to an already established school visit or appearance at a community event (like a town hall or civic meeting). If you have a preferred venue or presentation style (maybe at your school’s award ceremony or an Eagle Scout presentation), you may let your Congressional Office know when they contact you, but please note that they may not be able to accommodate every request.

How should I dress for my presentation?

We recommend business attire for presentations. This may be similar to church attire, with coat and tie for males and a nice dress or skirt and blouse for females.

What should I talk to my Member about?

Yourself! They want to meet the amazing constituents from their district who are accomplishing great things. Tell them about your activities in earning your Congressional Award, what you hope to accomplish next, what you plan to do in the future. Maybe you have a specific issue that's important to you, like the local community center budget or education policies – now is the time to broach the topic with a civic leader who may be able to provide guidance. Networking and talking to someone elected to represent you is a great learning experience. If you disagree with your Member on an issue, please remember to always stay civil and still thank them for taking the time to meet with you. Remember, Members of Congress have very busy schedules with legislative work in Washington, D.C. and constituent work in the District. We want to always thank them for their time and support.

Can I take pictures?

Please do! Most offices will also take snapshots for social media and press releases, but you are more than welcome to take home your own memento. If you have a great picture, remember we're on social media ([Twitter](#) - @theaward, [Facebook](#) – The Congressional Award, [Instagram](#) - thecongressionalaward) and would love to highlight your presentation!

How do I move forward in the program?

Start setting your goals and working with your Advisor. You can continue your previous goals or you may want to start new goals. Either way remember, we have your previous hours and months on file. Please only submit new activity on your next submission.

Can I include my approval on applications, even if my medal hasn't been presented?

Yes. Once you are approved, you are technically a Congressional Award Medalist. Even if it takes some time for the presentation you may list your achievements on college applications, scholarships, resume, etc.

If you have any specific questions about preparing for your presentation, please contact your Program Manager by phone or email. You may also direct your question by email to information@congressionalaward.org.