# Scrum Alliance®
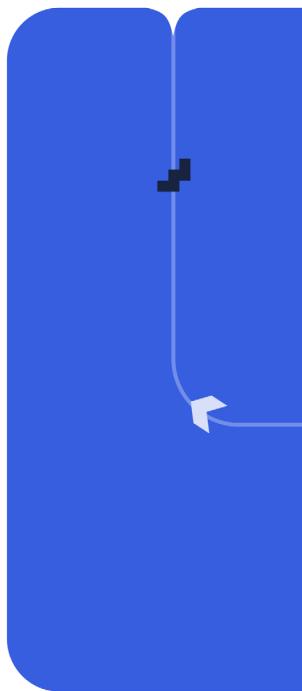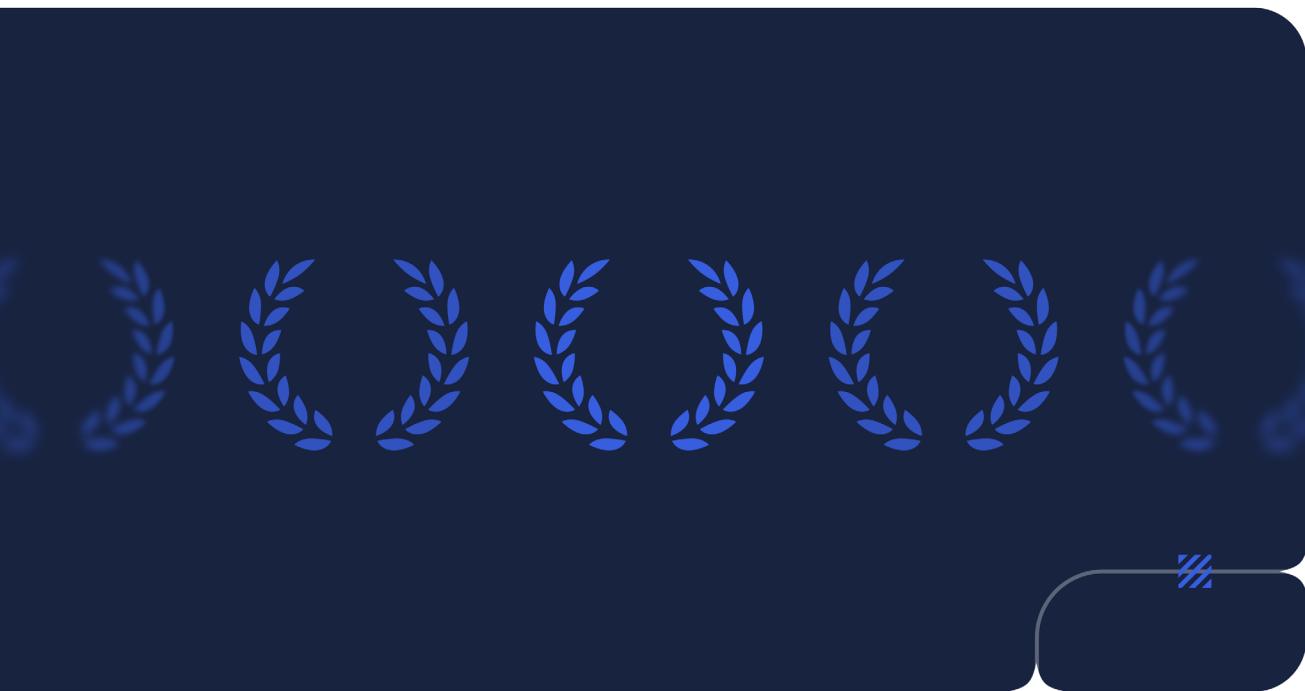
# Member Awards Program
## Program and Awards Guidelines

# About the Scrum Alliance Member Awards

Created in 2025, this awards program recognizes exceptional achievement and commitment to agile work methods and furthering the vision of Scrum Alliance to achieve a world in which agile is for anyone—fostering collaboration, adaptability, and better outcomes for all.

# Eligibility

Any active member of Scrum Alliance in good standing and maintaining strict adherence to the Scrum Alliance Code of Ethics is eligible to be nominated for a Scrum Alliance Member Award. Nonmembers or members may submit nominations. Nominators can be anyone familiar with the work of the person they are nominating, such as a supervisor, staff member, colleague in the agility space, or client. Scrum Alliance staff, members of the Board of Directors, and members of the Awards Committee are excluded from consideration for an award.

# Nomination Review

Each nomination will be reviewed by all members of the Scrum Alliance Awards Committee, which consists of subject matter experts, agile professionals, and Scrum Alliance staff. The committee will not consider individuals without a fully completed and submitted application.

# Selection and Announcement

All nominees and winners will be notified of their status via email. To officially accept the award, winners will complete a brief acceptance form; by doing so, they agree to have their name and image featured in Scrum Alliance promotional communications, including our website, social media, and community newsletter. While we will celebrate our winners during a special presentation at the Global Scrum Gathering, attendance is not required to receive an award. We look forward to honoring all winners across our community, whether they join us in person or celebrate with us virtually.

# Our Commitment to Inclusion and Belonging

Scrum Alliance is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion across our global community. We believe that excellence in agility is found in all backgrounds and perspectives. As such, we are committed to an equitable selection process that recognizes the full breadth of talent within the agile movement.

# Award Specific Details and Guidelines

The following section includes specific details and guidelines for each award.

# Agile Achievement

AWARD

## Purpose

The Scrum Alliance Agile Achievement Award was created to recognize agility in professional spaces and to honor outstanding performance and long-term achievement in the practice of scrum and agile. Recipients of this award are recognized as community builders, dedicated mentors, and respected leaders within the scrum and agile communities.

## Award Criteria

Nominees for this award must have demonstrated exceptional:

- **Commitment:** The nominee has demonstrated an aptitude for collaboration across teams in the pursuit of a product and sprint goals and an openness for dialogue.

- **Courage:** The nominee has a track record of questioning the status quo and speaking up when progress towards the sprint and product goals is at risk.

- **Focus:** The nominee has shown a unique ability to keep scrum teams focused on achievable metrics and realistic goals.

- **Openness:** The nominee is known as a curious and supportive leader who encourages questions and direct conversations about the work to be done.

- **Respect:** The candidate is a supportive leader on their team and has cultivated an environment of mutual respect and trust between all team members and additional parties.

- **Advocacy:** The nominee has effectively advanced the practice of agility—and their career—through meaningful engagements, including awards, certifications/designations, mentoring, public speaking, research, guest lecturing, and publications.

**Nomination form →**

# Rising Star
## AWARD

## Purpose

The Rising Star Award recognizes an agile practitioner within their first three years of service to agility and to recognize exceptional performance and potential.

## Award Criteria

Nominees for this award must have demonstrated exceptional:

- **Initiative:** Proactive work to expand the reach and practice of scrum and agility, either through the creation of User Groups, the organization of learning opportunities, or proposing new agile initiatives within their organization.

- **Volunteerism:** Proactive engagement with the scrum and agile community, through promoting agile practices in nonprofit organizations, involvement in Scrum Alliance User Groups, and participation as a subject matter expert in Scrum Alliance events and committees.

- **Professional Development:** Attendance at professional development programs, coaching events, and agile conferences, as well as a commitment to continuing professional learning and certification.

- **Achievement:** Leading successful agile initiatives within an organization or department.

- **Leadership Potential:** Establishing oneself as a growing authority within the agile and scrum community through mentorship, thought leadership, and advocacy for scrum values and agile principles.

- **New to Agile Career:** Nominees must be within the first three years in an agile role.

**Nomination form →**

# ScrumAlliance®

# Volunteer of the Year
## AWARD

## Purpose

The Scrum Alliance Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes Scrum Alliance members who have devoted their time and efforts to promoting scrum and agile practices, leading local Scrum Alliance communities, and serving as a vocal ambassador for the mission of Scrum Alliance. Recipients of this award are recognized as community leaders, connectors, and tireless champions for scrum and agile practices.

## Award Criteria

Nominees for this award must have demonstrated exceptional:

- **Service as a Scrum Alliance Volunteer:** Nominee's experience as a Scrum Alliance volunteer. Please include the years in which this individual volunteered with Scrum Alliance and the capacity in which they served.

- **Dedicated Volunteerism:** Nomination form must include a short statement outlining the nominee's qualifications and reason why they should be selected (Max. 300 words).

**Nomination form →**

# Agile Impact

AWARD

## Purpose

The Scrum Alliance Agile Impact Award recognizes a Scrum Alliance certified trainer who has made a profound and lasting contribution to the global agile community. This award honors those who go beyond the classroom to act as catalysts for change, serving as dedicated mentors to fellow trainers and passionate advocates for the values and principles of scrum and agility.

## Award Criteria

Nominees for this award must have demonstrated exceptional:

- **Mentorship & Peer Development:** A proven commitment to uplifting the trainer community by mentoring aspiring or fellow trainers, sharing educational techniques, and supporting the professional growth of others within the Scrum Alliance ecosystem.

- **Public Advocacy:** Active and consistent promotion of scrum and agility through public channels, including insightful social media thought leadership, blogging, or publishing resources that advance the community's understanding of agile practices.

- **Community Engagement:** Proactive participation in the Scrum Alliance community through volunteering, serving as a subject matter expert, or contributing to the success of webinars, coaching clinics, and global gatherings.

- **Training Quality:** A track record of delivering high-quality learning experiences, as evidenced by student satisfaction, engagement, and a dedication to the success of students pursuing Scrum Alliance credentials.

- **Thought Leadership:** Frequently sharing expertise as a speaker at local or international events, guest lecturing, or participating in collaborative research that pushes the boundaries of agile education.

- **Alignment with Scrum Values:** Exemplifying the values of focus, courage, openness, commitment, and respect in all professional interactions and community engagements.

**Nomination form →**

# ScrumAlliance®

## User Group of the Year
### AWARD

## Purpose

The Scrum Alliance User Group of the Year Award  the exceptional work of local agile communities in the Scrum Alliance network in engaging professionals through education, networking, and promotion of Scrum Alliance's mission. Recipients of this award have built vibrant groups of agile leaders through regular events, networking opportunities, and promotion of scrum and agile best practices.

## Note

In order to be considered for this award, a User Group must be enrolled in the Scrum Alliance User Group network and have an executed annual agreement with Scrum Alliance.

## Award Criteria

Nominees for this award must have demonstrated exceptional:

- **Engagement:** The User Group has demonstrated a proven ability to engage and serve local agile communities through events, education, and networking.

- **Meeting Consistency:** The User Group has committed to regularly meeting at least 8 times annually throughout the most recent full calendar year.

- **Attendee Participation:** The User Group has seen exceptional attendance at community events (either in-person or virtual).

- **Partnership and Collaboration:** The User Group, through partnerships and collaboration, has demonstrated a commitment to strengthening the value of agile and scrum in their local community.

**Nomination form →**

# Scrum Alliance Awards Committee Guidelines

## Committee Roles and Volunteer Expectations

The Awards Committee is tasked with reviewing all nominations and selecting the winners for the program's recognized categories. Members of the committee play an integral role in identifying and celebrating excellence in the agile space and spotlighting emerging leaders in our global community.

## Committee Scope

The Awards Committee is responsible for selecting the recipients of the following awards:

- Agile Achievement Award
- Rising Star Award
- Volunteer of the Year Award
- User Group of the Year Award
- Agile Impact Award

## Requirements for Volunteers

To ensure a fair and professional review process, all committee volunteers must meet the following criteria:

- **Membership:** Maintain an active Scrum Alliance membership in good standing.
- **Professional Standing:** Volunteers may be certified trainers, coaches, or practitioners within the Scrum Alliance community.
- **Compliance:** Volunteers must sign a Volunteer Agreement and adhere to the Scrum Alliance Code of Ethics.
- **Availability:** Volunteers must be available for all scheduled judging calls and commit to meeting all deadlines for nomination reviews.

# Expectations for Committee Members

Members of the Awards Committee are expected to uphold the integrity of the program through the following actions:

- **Collaboration:** Work alongside Scrum Alliance staff to select winners  and provide recommendations to improve nomination procedures for future cycles.
- **Objectivity:** Actively work to remove conscious bias during the review process.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Promptly inform Scrum Alliance if a conflict of interest exists regarding any specific nomination nominee, including any personal or professional relationship or connection.
- **Exclusion:** To maintain the program's integrity, committee members agree to remove themselves from consideration for any Scrum Alliance awards while serving as a reviewer.

# Compensation and Recognition

While the committee service is a volunteer position, Scrum Alliance recognizes the time and expertise contributed by our members:

- **SEUs:** Time spent volunteering on the Awards Committee is eligible for Scrum Education Units (SEUs).
- **Professional Recognition:** Committee members will be recognized and thanked for their service in various award-centric communications, which may include the Scrum Alliance website, the community newsletter, and during the awards presentation at the Global Scrum Gathering.