



2026 Awards & Scholarships Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in ARN Awards & Scholarships! All application materials are due **no later than June 15th, 2026, at Noon CT. Applications are available for the following 2026 Awards & Scholarships:**

Awards

- Direct Patient Care Nurse Award
- Leadership Award
- Nurse Educator Award
- Patient Advocacy Award
- Volunteer Impact Award
- Excellence in Long-Term Care Rehabilitation Award
- Preceptor/Mentor Award
- Innovative Practice Researcher Award
- Rising Star Award
- Outstanding Student Award
- DAISY © Team Award

Scholarships

- BSN Scholarship
- Graduate Scholarship
- Mary Ann Mikulic Scholarship
- Mary Ellen Hatch Member Scholarship
- CRRN Scholarship

About ARN

ARN is a diverse community of nearly 5,000 professional RNs working in acute care, inpatient rehabilitation units, long-term care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and academia. Led by a board of directors, ARN focuses on the challenges facing rehab patients, family members, and support systems—as well as rehabilitation care providers.

Our Mission

Promote and advance the rehabilitation nursing practice through professional development, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance the quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness.

Our Vision

Improve healthcare delivery through the integration of rehabilitation nursing concepts across the care continuum.

Award & Scholarship Descriptions

The following position descriptions will help you learn more about what would be required of you, if you were elected to any available position(s).

Direct Patient Care Nurse Award

This prestigious award recognizes a **rehabilitation nurse** who has demonstrated **exceptional practice** in a direct patient care role. To be eligible, the nominee must be an **ARN member in good standing**, actively involved in **direct patient care** within a **rehabilitation setting**, and consistently demonstrate **exceptional patient outcomes, advocacy**, and a **strong commitment to rehabilitation nursing**. This award is designed to honor a nurse who goes above and beyond in their care for patients, providing **high-quality** and **compassionate rehabilitation services**.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, family member, or another rehabilitation nurse who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

Leadership Award

This award recognizes a **rehabilitation nurse** who has demonstrated **exceptional leadership skills** in confronting specific challenges within their setting, such as a **unit, facility, or healthcare organization**. The nominee's efforts should have **advanced rehabilitation nursing practice** or **implemented positive changes** that benefit not only patients but also rehabilitation nurses and allied professionals. The nominee must be a **current ARN member in good standing** and show **exceptional leadership** within the rehabilitation nursing community.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, family member, or another rehabilitation nurse who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

Nurse Educator Award

This award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to **educating** and **mentoring** the next generation of rehabilitation nurses. It acknowledges excellence in **teaching, curriculum development**, and the **nurturing of students** interested in rehabilitation nursing. To be eligible, the nominee must be a **current ARN member** with a minimum of a **BSN degree** and employed in an **academic or educational role** in rehabilitation nursing. CRRN certification is required, and the nominee must demonstrate **leadership in the educational development** of rehabilitation nurses or students.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, family member, or another rehabilitation nurse who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

Patient Advocacy Award

This prestigious award recognizes a **rehabilitation nurse** who has demonstrated **exceptional practice** in a direct patient care role. To be eligible, the nominee must be an **ARN member in good standing**, actively involved in **direct patient care** within a **rehabilitation setting**, and consistently demonstrate **exceptional patient outcomes, advocacy**, and a **strong commitment to rehabilitation nursing**. This award is designed to honor a nurse who goes above and beyond in their care for patients, providing **high-quality** and **compassionate rehabilitation services**.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, family member, or another rehabilitation nurse who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

Outstanding Student Award

This award recognizes a student who has demonstrated **outstanding performance** in their nursing

program with a strong interest in **rehabilitation nursing**. To be considered for this award, the nominee must be **currently enrolled in a nursing program**, have **exceptional academic achievements**, and demonstrate a **clear commitment** to the field of **rehabilitation nursing**.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, faculty member, or nursing peer who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

Rising Star Award

This award honors a rehabilitation nurse early in their career who has shown **great potential** and **promise** in the field. To be considered, the nominee must have fewer than **five years of professional rehabilitation nursing experience** and demonstrate a **strong commitment** to improving **patient care** and advancing the practice of **rehabilitation nursing**.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, or nursing peer who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

Volunteer Impact Award

This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated **outstanding dedication to volunteerism** and made a **significant impact** within the rehabilitation nursing field through service to **ARN**. The nominee must be an **ARN member** in good standing, actively engaged in **volunteer work** related to rehabilitation nursing or healthcare, and has shown **exceptional commitment** to **service** and **community impact**.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, or volunteer coordinator who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

Preceptor/Mentor Award

This award recognizes a preceptor or professional who has demonstrated **exceptional teaching, guidance, and mentorship** to nursing students or new rehabilitation nurses, contributing to the **advancement** of the field. To be considered, the nominee must have served as a **preceptor** or shown a sustained commitment to **mentoring others** in rehabilitation nursing. They must have contributed meaningfully to the professional development and growth of colleagues through **encouragement, clinical support, and leadership**.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, or mentee who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

Innovative Practice Researcher Award

This award honors an individual who has made a **significant contribution** to advancing **rehabilitation nursing** through **research** or the implementation of **evidence-based practices**. To be considered, the nominee must be an **ARN member in good standing** who has led **research** or **innovative clinical initiatives** that have enhanced the field. The nominee should exhibit a strong commitment to improving **patient care** through **innovation** and **inquiry**.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, or mentor who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

Excellence in Long-Term Care Rehabilitation Award

This award honors an individual who has made **outstanding contributions** to the **quality of care** in **long-term** or **skilled nursing facility rehabilitation settings**. To be eligible, the nominee must be an **ARN member in good standing** and actively working in a **long-term care** or **skilled nursing facility**. The nominee should demonstrate a **strong commitment** to providing **high-quality, compassionate rehabilitation care**.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, or mentor who can provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria.

DAISY Team Award

The DAISY Team Award, presented in partnership with the **DAISY Foundation**, recognizes **outstanding teamwork** and **collaboration** in the rehabilitation nursing field. This prestigious award honors teams who go above and beyond their traditional roles to meet the needs of patients and their families, demonstrating a strong commitment to improving **patient care** through **effective collaboration**.

Eligibility:

- Each team must consist of **at least two individuals**, with a maximum of **20 members per application**.
- At least **one team member must be a current ARN member**.
- The team must be **led by a rehabilitation nurse** or a group of rehabilitation nurses.

The award recognizes teams that exemplify **collaboration, interdisciplinary partnership, and shared leadership**, leading to significant positive outcomes for patients, families, healthcare colleagues, and the broader community.

Nomination may be submitted by a supervisor, colleague, or team leader who can provide specific examples of how the team meets the award criteria.

BSN Scholarship

This scholarship provides **\$1,500** in financial assistance to registered nurses pursuing a **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)** degree.

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a **current ARN member**
- Be **enrolled in a nursing program** and actively working toward a **BSN degree**
- Demonstrate an interest in **rehabilitation nursing**
- Have at least **two years of experience** in **rehabilitation nursing**

Recipients are expected to submit a **written statement** at the end of the academic term explaining how the scholarship has supported their education and interest in rehabilitation nursing.

This scholarship may be nominated by a supervisor, colleague, or mentor who can speak to the nominee's qualifications and dedication to rehabilitation nursing.

Graduate Scholarship

This scholarship provides **\$1,500** in financial assistance to rehabilitation nurses pursuing advanced degrees, such as a **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)** or doctoral degrees (**PhD, DNP, DNS/DNSc**).

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a **Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse (CRRN)**
- Be a **current ARN member** in good standing
- Be **currently enrolled** or accepted into an **MSN, DNP, PhD, or DNS/DNSc** program
- The applicant's **thesis** or **project** must focus on **rehabilitation nursing** or a related area of advanced practice

Recipients are expected to submit a **brief report** (approximately 500 words) within **12 months**, explaining how the scholarship has supported their educational progress.

This scholarship may be nominated by a supervisor, colleague, mentor, or another rehabilitation nurse who can speak to the nominee's qualifications and educational progress.

Mary Ann Mikulic Scholarship

This scholarship covers **one full hybrid registration fee** for the **Rehabilitation Nursing Conference**, allowing the recipient to attend either **in person** or **virtually**. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn **continuing education credits**, engage with the rehabilitation nursing community, and gain insight into current best practices in the field.

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must be **first-time attendees** of the **ARN Rehabilitation Nursing Conference** and either:

- Be **currently practicing in rehabilitation nursing**, or
- Be a **student with a demonstrated interest** in the specialty

Nominees must also be **current ARN members**. The scholarship covers the **conference registration fee only**. All other expenses—including **travel, housing, meals**, and any extra-cost events—are the responsibility of the recipient.

Recipients are expected to:

- **Participate in an ARN volunteer opportunity** related to the conference within **six months** of attendance
- Submit a **written reflection** describing their conference experience within **30 days** of the event

This scholarship may be nominated by the applicant or a colleague.

Mary Ellen Hatch Emerging Leader Member Scholarship

This scholarship covers **one full hybrid registration fee** for the **Rehabilitation Nursing Conference**, allowing the recipient to attend either **in person** or **virtually**. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn **continuing education credits**, engage with the rehabilitation nursing community, and gain insight into current best practices in the field.

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must be **first-time attendees** of the **ARN Rehabilitation Nursing Conference** and either:

- Be **currently practicing in rehabilitation nursing**, or
- Be a **student with a demonstrated interest** in the specialty

Nominees must also be **current ARN members**. The scholarship covers the **conference registration fee only**. All other expenses—including **travel, housing, meals**, and any extra-cost events—are the responsibility of the recipient.

Recipients are expected to:

- **Participate in an ARN volunteer opportunity** related to the conference within **six months** of attendance
- Submit a **written reflection** describing their conference experience within **30 days** of the event

This scholarship may be nominated by the applicant or a colleague.

CRRN Scholarship

This scholarship provides financial assistance to rehabilitation nurses preparing to take the **CRRN exam**. Funded by the **Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation (RNF)**, this scholarship covers the **cost of the CRRN examination fee**.

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

- Be **ARN members in good standing**
- Be **currently working** in a rehabilitation nursing specialty
- Submit applications prior to the selected testing window for either the **December** or **June exam**. Two scholarships will be awarded annually—one for the **December exam** and one for the **June exam**.

Recipients may be invited to serve as **CRRN Ambassadors**, sharing insights and supporting other nurses pursuing certification.

This scholarship may be nominated by a supervisor, colleague, mentor, or the applicant themselves.

ARN Nominations Portal User Instructions

To access the ARN Nominations Portal click [HERE](#). In order to help you become acquainted with this tool, please read this important information.

For the best user experience, recommended browsers include Google Chrome (preferably the incognito window to remove cache) or Mozilla Firefox. Use of Internet Explorer is not advised.

Once you are on the ARN Nominations Portal landing page, click “Join Now” at the bottom of the page under “New Users.” If you have already created an account and are returning to edit your submission, enter your credentials under the “Already a User” section.

Home Page:

You will be able to create and edit your submissions. To get started, click the green link that says "Click here to begin a new application."

Start a New Application:

Enter your full name as the title of your application. Then select which type of application you wish to submit. You can view the application type descriptions by clicking on “View Application Type descriptions.” under the application type dropdown.

Task List:

You will need to complete each of the sections on your task list, in order to complete your application. A green checkbox will appear next to each task as it has been completed. A breadcrumb trail navigation path is available at the top of each page. To return to a previous page, click the link of the page name in the navigation.

Review and Selection Process

All application materials are due no later than June 15th, 2026, at Noon CT. All applicants will be notified of final decisions by Mid-July.

For help with any questions, you have regarding your submission, call ARN Member Services at 800.229.7530 or info@rehabnurse.org for assistance.