

# About the AMC Southeastern Mass. Chapter Distinguished Service Award

## History

In 2001, Bob Bentley, a member of the Southeastern Mass. (SEM) Chapter of the Appalachian Mtn. Club (AMC), proposed establishing an annual SEM “Distinguished Service Award” to recognize members who have demonstrated particularly distinguished service to the chapter. Bob suggested that this award, an engraved, gold-colored Sierra Cup should be presented at the SEM Annual Meeting. The first SEM Distinguished Service Award (DSA) was presented that year to Bruce Dunham. Initially, the SEM Board selected the recipient based on input from Bob and other long-time members. After the award had been in place for several years, it was determined that the new recipients should be chosen by a committee composed of past award winners.

## About the Award

The DSA is given to an SEM Chapter member who has contributed to the Chapter above and beyond the usual high level of volunteer service. While the criteria for determining the annual award winner have evolved over the years, the bottom line is that the recipient must have provided a high level of service to the Chapter over an extended period.

## DSA Committee

The annual SEM Distinguished Service Award recipient is selected by a DSA Committee composed of previous DSA recipients. The prior year’s DSA recipient serves as the DSA Committee Chair. However, if the previous year’s recipient is not available or willing to serve in this capacity, the Chapter Chair can ask another prior recipient to do so.

To have everything ready by the Annual Meeting in November, the Chapter Chair should initiate this DSA nomination process by September 1<sup>st</sup>. He or she does so by contacting the previous year’s recipient to verify that he or she is willing and available to serve as the current year’s DSA Committee Chair. The DSA Committee Chair then contacts other prior recipients to inquire about their availability and willingness to serve on the current DSA Nominating Committee.

## Selection Process

The SEM Chapter Chair initiates the process by asking Committee Chairs to solicit nominations from their respective committees and at Chapter events and by requesting the SEM Communications Chair to promote the award and solicit nominations in the Breeze, Blast, and via SEM social media outlets. Nomination forms are available on the Chapter website. To provide the DSA Committee adequate time, the annual nomination forms must be turned into the Chapter Chair and received by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The DSA Committee members then collaborate to

first evaluate and compare the credentials of the possible recipients and then vote to choose the ultimate annual recipient from those nominated. The decision of the DSA Committee is final.

## Award Criteria

The DSA is awarded to someone who:

- Is a current AMC SEM member and has belonged to the SEM chapter for at least five years (to be verified by AMC Membership)
- Has contributed to the SEM Chapter “above and beyond” the high level of volunteer service typically provided by our activity leaders and other members
- Contributions can be at the Board level, committee level, across multiple committees, or in some other chapter-wide capacity
- Nominee should be actively contributing to the chapter or have contributed significantly in the past
- Prior DSA recipients are not eligible for nomination

NOTES on Award Criteria:

- While unlikely, it’s possible that in some years no one satisfies the criteria
- These DSA criteria reside on the chapter website in a public area
- Nominees not selected for the award in one year are eligible for reconsideration the following year

## DSA Recognition

DSA recipients are recognized in several ways:

### Sierra Cup

As proposed by Bob Bentley back in 2001, each annual DSA recipient receives an engraved “Sierra Cup” to keep and display proudly.

### e-Plaque

Prior to 2013, the DSA had been represented by a wooden plaque with engraved names that each recipient held for a year. However, 2012 was the last year we updated the physical plaque. Starting in 2013, the Chapter changed from a physical plaque to an electronic plaque (e-plaque), which is updated every year following the SEM Annual Meeting. This e-plaque resides on the AMC SEM website.

### Certificate

The recipient receives a paper certificate signed by the Chapter Chair and Chapter Vice Chair (or designated Executive Board officers). The template for this certificate resides on the chapter website.



Suggested engraving:

**20XX AMC SEM**  
***Distinguished Service Award***  
**(Recipient's Full Name)**

Information on “Sierra cups” can be found at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra\\_cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_cup)

### **Notifying the Recipient**

The winner of the annual SEM Award is usually kept secret until the Annual Meeting. While desirable, this is not always possible. If necessary, the Chapter Chair or DSA Committee Chair can inform the recipient prior to the Annual Meeting.

### **Presentation of the Award**

The award is presented at the AMC SEM Annual Meeting/Dinner by either that year’s DSA Committee Chair or the Chapter Chair. The presenter will describe several of the recipient’s major contributions. Even if the recipient cannot be present to accept the award in person, the award is still presented/mentioned as part of the Annual Meeting agenda, noted in the minutes of the meeting, and another suitable occasion found to award the recipient with their certificate and Sierra Cup.

### **Refusal of the Award**

Should the proposed recipient refuse the award, the next most-qualified nominee shall receive the award.