2026 USCAR RECOGNITION AWARDS PROGRAM

Program Guidelines

Nomination deadline: Friday, Jan. 15, 2027

Purpose

The USCAR Recognition Awards honor the individuals and teams whose 2026 work through USCAR produced measurable value for the Member companies. Awards are based on demonstrated, quantified results and on the collaboration that made them possible.

Awards at a Glance

Award	Recognizes	Max. awards	Selected by
Special Recognition	An individual whose 2026 contributions drove measurable results for one or more USCAR teams	Up to 12 (~2 per TLC)	Technical Leadership Councils (TLCs)
Team	A team whose 2026 results went well beyond its routine deliverables	Up to 4	Technical Leadership Councils (TLCs)
Lifetime Achievement	Sustained, high-value leadership across 10+ years of USCAR activity	Up to 2	USCAR Leadership Group, with TLC input as requested

Award totals are maximums, not quotas. Fewer awards, or none, may be selected in a category if the criteria are not met.

What Makes a Strong Nomination

- **Measurable business impact.** Show results in dollars, percentages, time saved or similar metrics. These are required for Special Recognition and strongly encouraged for all other awards.
- **Above and beyond.** Clearly document how the contribution exceeded normal expectations or routine deliverables.
- **Collaboration.** Explain how the work advanced the broader team and USCAR goals.
- **Detail.** Selections rely heavily on the nomination form, so complete, specific write-ups carry the most weight.

Awards Criteria

Award	Eligibility	Criteria
Special Recognition Award Up to 12 (~2 per TLC)	All USCAR participants active during 2026. Primary focus is on OEM employees; occasional exceptions are made for outstanding research partners.	Exceptional individual contributions to the accomplishments of one or more USCAR or U.S. DRIVE teams during 2026. ▪ Clearly and concisely explains the work completed and why it matters. ▪ Shows a collaborative approach that had a major impact on team results. ▪ Delivers recognized value to the Member companies.
Team Award Up to 4	Teams active during 2026. All team members may be included. Teams with more than 12 members should focus on recognizing OEM members and only the most active research partners. Team leaders determine the roster for award purposes.	Outstanding 2026 accomplishments that deliver value directly to USCAR Members, or indirectly through significant progress toward U.S. DRIVE goals. ▪ Clearly exceeds the normal or routine deliverables the team was responsible for. ▪ Highlights the role of collaboration. ▪ Delivers recognized value to the Member companies; include as much quantified data as possible.
Lifetime Achievement Award Up to 2	All USCAR participants.	Outstanding contributions to USCAR activities over a substantial number of years (10+). ▪ Clearly exceeds the normal level of sustained involvement by any participant. ▪ Demonstrates sustained excellence in technical and/or business leadership. ▪ Resulted in multiple accomplishments of significant value to the Member companies; include as much quantified data as possible.

Nomination Process

Open to all. Nominations for every category are accepted from all USCAR participants, individually or as a group. Individuals and teams may nominate themselves.

Multiple nominations combine. If an individual or team is nominated by more than one party, the nominations are considered together as one.

No limit on nominations. Every complete nomination submitted through the correct form by the deadline will be considered.

Leaders may nominate. Team leaders and Technical Leadership Councils (TLCs) may nominate their teams or individual team members.

How to submit. Complete and submit forms online using the links in the USCAR eNews.

Selection Process

Technical Leadership Councils. TLCs know their teams' work best and will select the Special Recognition and Team Awards within their scope. Each TLC receives a recommended number of awards when nominations are distributed. TLCs may also be asked to provide input on Lifetime Achievement nominees.

USCAR Leadership Group. The Leadership Group selects Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, with TLC input as requested.

No quotas. More than one member of a team may receive an individual award, and some TLCs or teams may have no recipients. A nomination does not guarantee an award.

Basis for selection. Decisions rest primarily on the nomination form submissions. Contributions that exceed normal expectations and produce measurable, recognizable value for the Member companies should be documented in detail.