

HOW TO: HONOR YOUR RECIPIENT

You've selected a recipient, now it's time to celebrate her!

Honoring your recipient is one of the most fun and rewarding aspects of the Soroptimist *Live Your Dream Awards*! One of the most consistently reported outcomes from past recipients is an increase in their self-esteem and their impact as a role model for their dependents. Honoring your recipient helps her feel respected and valued as a woman in your community. It is also important for her family to see her recognized for her hard work.

Host a Recognition Event

Many clubs choose to honor their recipient at an awards banquet or dinner reception. Consider hosting a recognition event and inviting your recipient's family to join as well. Recipients consistently remark that feeling encouraged and recognized by women within their community is equally as rewarding as receiving the cash award. Furthermore, seeing their mother, wife, aunt, or sister receive an award is equally impactful on the recipient's family. We recommend seeking a volunteer photographer in your community who can take beautiful photos of the recipient and her family—lovely for them to have and for your club and SIA to have to promote the *Live Your Dream Awards*! There are more specific tips in the How to Host a Successful Club Event section. Photos can be submitted to program@soroptimist.org or through our [online Share Your Story form](#).

Be sure to convey to your honoree that attending the event is not compulsory--some women are uncomfortable being recognized publicly. Attending an event or sharing their story should never be a requirement to receive the award funds. Consider sending the award funds as early as possible, and recognizing the recipient at a later time.

Publicize Your Recipient

Many clubs create a news release to further honor their recipients, or share their recipient's story on their website to advertise the award to future potential applicants. These are great ideas, but in order to use your recipient's name and story, you will need her to sign a [media consent form](#) first. Some recipients may not be comfortable with having their personal story shared and will choose to not sign the form. In these cases, clubs must honor the recipient's confidentiality.

Go Beyond a Cash Award

In addition to cash awards, many clubs offer non-monetary awards. One of SIA's strategic program objectives is to increase the ability of women to achieve economic empowerment. Therefore, consider what else applicants will need to help them achieve their goals, such as books, computers, groceries, and childcare. Club members can also volunteer their time and experience to assist recipients through mentoring, job training, and financial advice. These activities help to strengthen the quality of the impact that the award has on its recipients. Check out the [Beyond A Cash Award](#) document for more tips and suggestions!