Awards Criteria

1. Shannen Koostachin Youth Leadership Award:

Must be 13 - 24 years of age
Must be a member of a Nishnawbe Aski First Nation

The Shannen Koostachin Youth Leadership Award is named in honour of Shannen Koostachin, a passionate youth leader and advocate for Indigenous education. This award recognizes young leaders who are creating a brighter future for the next generations.

This award is presented to an individual who has served on the NAN Oshkaatisak Council or taken on leadership roles at the provincial and federal levels:

- Volunteers in community events and activities
- Works with a youth organization or organizes activities for youth and children in their own community
- Achievement in education or career paths
- Role model for peers and younger children
- Promotes a healthy lifestyle
- Has overcome adverse circumstances
- Proven leadership skills and achievements
- Outstanding athletic achievements
- Willingness to learn about traditional language, practices, and way of life
- Has committed an act of bravery or an outstanding feat

2. Helen Cromarty Memorial Award for Women:

Must be a member of a Nishnawbe Aski First Nation

The Helen Cromarty Memorial Award for Women is named in honour of the late Helen Cromarty, a strong and respected mother, grandmother, aunt, and community member.

This award recognizes individuals who honour the sacred role of women and demonstrate strong family values or notable achievements in career or education:

- Demonstrates strong family values
- Personal achievements have positively impacted the lives of women
- Achievements in Education or Career paths
- Shares knowledge of traditional languages, practices, and way of life
- Volunteers in community events and activities
- Dedication in working to improve the lives of women, youth, and children
- Promotes a healthy lifestyle
- Has overcome adverse circumstances
- Proven leadership skills and achievements
- Shown innovation in chosen field of work

3. NAN Elder Award:

Must be a member of a Nishnawbe Aski First Nation

The NAN Elder Award honours the leadership and dedication of our Elders to the growth of our Nations and the support they provide to NAN communities and leadership.

This award is presented to an individual who shares their knowledge and wisdom through the guidance they provide and their teaching of cultural and traditional values and customs:

- Proven leadership skills and achievements
- Has overcome adverse circumstances
- Teaches and practices cultural & traditional values, customs and knowledge
- Respect and Honour
- Life experiences in education or career paths
- Volunteers with community organizations and groups
- Promotes a healthy lifestyle
- Teaches and interacts with the youth

4. Emile Nakogee Award for Outstanding Leadership:

Mustt be a member of a Nishnawbe Aski Nation First Nation and/ or employed by a Nishnawbe Aski Nation organization or agency.

The Emile Nakogee Award for Outstanding Leadership is named in honour of the late Emile Nakogee, a NAN Elder who was very influential in the advancement of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. This award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in their field of work.

The nominee must be either:

1. First Nation Chief, Grand Chief or Deputy Grand Chief
2. First Nation Councillor
3. Tribal Council Chair
4. Management positions such as Executive Directors of the NAN organizations and agencies
5. Business/Financial Administration
6. Academic Excellence
7. Justice

A nominee shall also meet some but not necessarily all of the following characteristics:

- Outstanding leadership skills and knowledge
- Commitment to the betterment of lives of the people of Nishnawbe Aski
- Promotes, protects, and respects the traditional values, beliefs, and customs of Nishnawbe Aski First Nations
- Achievements in education or career paths
- Role Model for peers and youth
- Years of service and dedication to Nishnawbe Aski First Nations
- Work performed beyond the call of duty