

Promoting Distinguished Service Awards

Celebrating County Historical Commission Performance Locally

This information is provided to county officials and County Historical Commission (CHC) appointees who have garnered a Distinguished Service Award (DSA). Although the Texas Historical Commission (THC) administers these awards, the presentation of the DSA certificate to CHC appointees takes place locally, typically during a county commissioners court meeting.

Changing Environment of Open Meetings

Due to social distancing measures, in-person recognition of appointees' award may not be feasible. For this reason, we'd like to offer some alternatives that bring attention to the extraordinary efforts of your CHC appointees. Most of the ideas we offer can be managed and implemented regardless of your ability to meet in-person. Please work with your appointees, especially your CHC chair to recognize their hard work.

DSA Press Release

Publicizing your CHC's award is an easy and effective way to promote county government and CHC services provided to the public. Enclosed in this mailer is a DSA press release to distribute to local media. This press release template provides notations that indicate where you should to add information specific to your county. You can also insert a paragraph that highlights your CHC's accomplishments. Insert these details prior to sharing the press release with local and regional media outlets. An **electronic copy of the press release** is posted here on the THC website: thc.texas.gov/information-2019-dsa-winning-chcs.

Social Media Promotion

Most counties have a web presence and many CHCs host a Facebook page. Additionally, there are community partners who have these tools as well as, or instead of, the CHC. Likely partners include area museums, chambers of commerce, Main Street programs, etc. Promoting the award on CHC platforms and/or those belonging to other organizations is an effective and inexpensive way to publicize the DSA award and the CHC's hard work. Please work with your CHC appointees to share specific accomplishments from 2019 with the public.

Expressions of Gratitude

THC's CHC Outreach staff have worked with appointees for more than 10 years. During that time, we've found that a sincere statement of appreciation is valued greatly by appointees. Appointees are thanked rarely for their efforts, so consider contacting your appointees to say, thank you—in-person, via phone, a note on county letterhead, etc.

Questions and Answers

If you'd like specifics about your CHC's performance, please contact your CHC chair for information. Questions about the award process can be directed to Amy Hammons — amy.hammons@thc.texas.gov.

2019 Distinguished Service Awards
 Recognition of County Historical Commission Performance

The following County Historical Commissions garnered a Distinguished Service Award for the 2019 year of service. Each year, the Texas Historical Commission uses the DSA to recognize CHCs that demonstrate exceptional service to preserve Texas’ rich and unique heritage. Heartfelt congratulations to these appointees for going above and beyond.

Aransas	Deaf Smith	Jeff Davis	Matagorda	Sabine
Atascosa	DeWitt	Jefferson	Medina	San Saba
Austin	Dickens	Jim Hogg	Menard	Scurry
Bandera	El Paso	Kaufman	Milam	Tarrant
Bell	Erath	Kendall	Mills	Taylor
Brazos	Fannin	Kerr	Montague	Tom Green
Brown	Fayette	Kimble	Montgomery	Travis
Burnet	Fort Bend	Lamar	Nacogdoches	Tyler
Cameron	Franklin	Lampasas	Navarro	Van Zandt
Carson	Garza	Lavaca	Newton	Victoria
Cass	Harris	Liberty	Nueces	Walker
Chambers	Harrison	Limestone	Palo Pinto	Waller
Cherokee	Hays	Live Oak	Pecos	Wheeler
Collin	Henderson	Lubbock	Polk	Wilson
Comal	Houston	Marion	Randall	Wise
	Jasper	Mason	Rusk	Wood

An award packet will be mailed to the county judge of each of these County Historical Commissions (CHC). Presenting the award locally provides the opportunity for county officials and the public to honor the CHC and provide recognition to all appointees.

CHC Outreach staff assembled a **photo gallery that highlights the efforts** of each award-winning commission here: thc.texas.gov/distinguished-service-awards-2019. More information on how the award can be presented publicly here: thc.texas.gov/information-2019-dsa-winning-chcs.



2019 CHC Annual Report Summary

County Historical Commission (CHC) Performance Highlights

The Texas Historical Commission received reports from 185 County Historical Commissions (CHC) for the 2019 year of service. Below are primary reporting statistics that demonstrate the breadth and value of CHC services.

- **444,808 CHC volunteer hours represents work of 213 employees and has a monetary value of \$11,311,467.***
- **Return on investment**—for every \$1 counties invested in CHCs, \$9.87 worth of service was returned by CHCs.
- CHCs supplemented county money with \$347,636 from grants, donations, and fundraisers.

Financial data from 2019 CHC annual reports	Average allocation	Reporting Totals
Annual county allocation—122 CHCs received 2019 allocation:	\$6,353	\$775,033
County money allotted for museums—21 CHCs provided amounts:	\$13,151	\$276,171
Any other money issued by the county:		\$94,493
Total county monies invested:		\$1,145,697

General information about Texas CHCs based on 2019 CHC reports

- Average size of reporting CHCs is 18 appointees and usually hold six meetings per year.
- CHCs provide an average of 2,404 volunteer hours per year; reports show zero hours upwards to 20,000 hours.
- CHCs participate in a wide range of activities, some of which are noted below.

Select preservation activity based on 185 CHC reports for 2019 year of service	# of participating CHCs
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of subject markers in your county	114
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of cemeteries in your county	115
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of designated properties (RTHL, NR)	61
Used the THC website information to educate appointees	99
Made concerted efforts to improve online presence of CHC and/or county	91
Provided educational events/presentations to adult audiences outside your CHC	93
Provided educational events/presentations to youth/schools	76
CHC appointees volunteered at a historic site that is open to the public at large	88
Provided tours of historic buildings and/or sites within the county	66

* Current estimated volunteer hourly rate is \$25.43 as per independentsector.org.

Reporting data as of 6/1/20