

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL
presents the

STEPHEN A. M'LAUGHLIN
Champions
of
Character
AWARDS



MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024

RESPONSIBILITY • RESPECT • CARING

TRUSTWORTHINESS • CITIZENSHIP • FAIRNESS

2024
Champions
of
Character
Awards

Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards



In 2023, the Champions of Character ceremony was renamed in honor of Stephen A. McLaughlin, the former Providence District Representative on the Fairfax County Athletic Council who served for 26 years under numerous leadership changes.

For more than three decades, the Athletic Council has been a major force of positive influence for Fairfax County citizens. The council has forwarded many important recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on programs, policies, procedures and budget impacts. Steve was a key voice as a member on committees or in leadership positions. Steve embodied all the traits we honor tonight: Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Trustworthiness, Citizenship and Fairness.

The Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards program honors youth, coaches and parents for extraordinary service in pursuing victory with honor on and off the field of competition. Instituted by the Fairfax County Athletic Council, this program aims to support the tradition of amateur athletics in cultivating teamwork, leadership, good sportsmanship and community service.

2024 Champions of Character Award

We are honored to give the 2024 Champion of Character Award to Barbara R. Lowrey for her 25 years of service on The Fairfax County Athletic Council. This award is given to an individual for their longstanding service to athletics in Fairfax County and commitment to the values of the Champions of Character.



Program

Opening Remarks

Lloyd Tucker

Director

*Fairfax County Department of
Neighborhood and Community Services*

Lula Bauer

Chairwoman

Fairfax County Athletic Council

Jeffrey McKay

Chairman

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Bryan Hill

County Executive

Fairfax County

Awards Presentation

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Fairfax County School Board

Fairfax County Athletic Council

Fairfax County Stephen A. McLaughlin Champions of Character Awards

The Champions of Character Awards were first presented in 2001 to recognize those who go above and beyond in demonstrating good sportsmanship and character in youth sports.

The benefits of playing sports are well documented:

- Participants experience improved health, community involvement, family attachment and academic performance.
- Young athletes are less likely to become involved in gangs, violent behavior, drug use and other problem behaviors.

Sports can only work their magic when they are enjoyable, and enjoyment stems from good sportsmanship. Among the thousands of parents, coaches and athletes in Fairfax County, we are proud to honor Champions of Character from each magisterial district in the following categories:

Female Athlete

Male Athlete

Coach

Parent

Each honoree has proven to be a Champion of Character by exhibiting the following qualities outlined in each award category.

Athlete Awards

- Being respectful to opponents and game officials.
- Treating all team players fairly, giving attention to all players regardless of skill level.
- Giving respect and consideration to other team members.
- Helping teammates with words of encouragement and inspiration.
- Playing true to the spirit and rules of the game and promoting friendly competition.
- Exhibiting courage in defeat and moderation in victory.
- Showing a willingness to sacrifice personal goals for those of the team.
- Giving back to the team or program by helping out when able.

Coach Awards

- Being respectful to opponents and game officials.
- Treating all team players fairly, giving attention to all players regardless of skill level.
- Recognizing the efforts of individual team members.
- Motivating teams and individuals in a positive manner.
- Focusing on long term goals, not just win/loss records.
- Promoting the concept that success is measured by individual and team effort, not by a scoreboard.
- Imparting knowledge and love of the game to the team in a positive manner.
- Taking responsibility for the behavior of self, team and parents.

Parent Awards

- Being respectful to players, coaches, and game officials.
- Treating all players, coaches and parents fairly.
- Recognizing the efforts of individual team members and opposing team members.
- Motivating parents, teams, coaches and fans in a positive manner.
- Promoting the concept that success is measured by individual and team effort, not by a scoreboard.
- Demonstrating good sportsmanship by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill, and good sportsmanship exhibited by players and coaches on both teams.
- Accepting volunteer roles to improve the communication and the needs of the coach and team.

Braddock District

Female Athlete

Abigail (Abby) Merid

Team America FC, Annandale Boys & Girls Club,
DMV Wave Runners — Soccer, Basketball

Male Athlete

Joseph Glatfelter

Braddock Road Youth Club, Annandale Boys & Girls Club
Travel Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse

Coach

Jurgen Bautista

Braddock Road Youth Club — Soccer

Parent

Mario E. Saravia

Braddock Road Youth Club — Soccer, Basketball, Football

Dranesville District

Female Athlete

Leah Sexton

McLean High School — Gymnastics

Male Athlete

Ryan C. Dougherty

Flag Star Football — Football

Coach

Todd Seymour

Reston Raiders Hockey Club — Ice Hockey

Parent

Thomas Do

Herndon Reston Youth Baseball — Baseball

Franconia District

Female Athlete

Amber Murphy

Edison High School — Cheerleading, Gymnastics

Male Athlete

Jonathan Nugent

Hayfield Secondary School — Lacrosse

Coach

Meg and Sundar Cook

Virginia Glory Fastpitch — Softball

Parent

Jennifer Schroeder

Lee Mt. Vernon Sports Club — Soccer, Basketball, Flag Football

Hunter Mill District

Female Athlete

Isabel J. Manicone

Vienna Girls Softball League — Softball

Male Athlete

Zachary Lesniewski

Vienna Youth Inc. — Football

Coach

Billy Samson

Vienna Youth Inc. — Football

Parent

Michelle Prykanowski

O'Connell High School — Softball

Mason District

Female Athlete

Anna Lucia Stavlund

Villarreal Virginia Academy — Soccer

Male Athlete

Noah Kelahe

Annandale Boys & Girls Club — Football

Coach

Matt Smith

Annandale Boys & Girls Club — Lacrosse

Parent

Dana Doherty

Annandale Boys & Girls Club — Football

Mount Vernon District

Female Athlete

Ja'Layah Hodges

Lee Mt. Vernon Sports Club — Soccer

Male Athlete

Anthony Thompson

Mt. Vernon High School — Football, Basketball

Coach

Lisa Gankhuyag

South County High School / South County Athletic Association
Volleyball

Parent

Sean Vermillion

Lee Mount Vernon Sports Club — Soccer

Providence District

Female Athlete

Amara Claire Kumar

McLean Little League — Softball

Male Athlete

Cael Yates

Madison High School — Football, Baseball

Coach

Chris Ham

Virginia Glory — Softball

Parent

Febe Phillips

George C. Marshall High School — Basketball

Springfield District

Female Athlete

Baylee T. Stevens

Virginia Glory — Softball

Male Athlete

Noah Smith

Lake Braddock Secondary School – Top Caliber Lacrosse — Lacrosse

Coach

Trista Brennan

South County Athletic Association — Track

Parent

Ross Crigler

Southwestern Youth Association — Baseball

Sully District

Female Athlete

Ella Navarro

Southwestern Youth Association — Volleyball

Male Athlete

Azad Kakar

Southwestern Youth Association — Soccer

Coach

Vergil Arbuckle

Southwestern Youth Association — Soccer

Parent

Dorothy Owens

Southwestern Youth Association — Soccer

Congratulations, Champions!

Photos and video of this event will be available:

bit.ly/FairfaxChampions

Do You Know a Champion of Character?

We are now accepting nominations for our 2025 Stephen A. McLaughlin Champions of Character Awards. Help us recognize and honor those Champions of Character in your community. If you know an athlete, coach or parent who you feel is deserving of this recognition for their dedication on and off the playing field or court, we want to hear about them.

Program details and nomination forms are available online at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/athletics/champions-of-character

Attach a narrative of one page or less and submit it to:

Fax: 703-324-5546

Mail to: **Champions of Character Awards**
12011 Government Center Parkway
10th Floor, Athletic Services
Fairfax, VA 22035



The Athletic Council

The Fairfax County Athletic Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, School Board and county agencies on matters relating to sports in Fairfax County. The council, comprised of 23 voting members, advises on policy and establishes priorities for enhancing the availability of sports programs to the citizens of Fairfax County.

Council appointees include one representative from each of the nine magisterial districts; a member-at-large; a representative from women's sports programs; a diversity-at-large representative; representatives from the Towns of Vienna, Herndon, and Clifton; and eight members appointed from the county's eight sports-specific councils.

Fairfax County Staff **Serving on the Athletic Council**

Lloyd Tucker

Director

Department of Neighborhood
and Community Services

Pallas Washington

Deputy Director

Department of Neighborhood
and Community Services

Aimee Garcia

Division Director

Access and Economic Mobility

Department of Neighborhood
and Community Services

Karen Avvisato

Manager

Athletic Services

Department of Neighborhood
and Community Services

Kim Eckert

Director of Park Operations

Park Authority

Ryan McElveen

Board Member

Fairfax County School Board

Tom Horn

Director of Student Activities

and Athletic Programs

Fairfax County Public Schools

Athletic Council Members

Marcia Pape Daniels

Braddock District

Ian Harper

Dranesville District

Harold Leff

Hunter Mill District

Lisa Mickey

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Franconia District

Scott Anderson

Mason District

Bob Kirk

Mount Vernon District

Kelly Ego-Osuala

Providence District

Michael Thompson Jr.

Springfield District

Gary Flather

Vice Chair

Sully District

Katherine Quinn

Member-at-Large

Marc Fernandes

Diversity-at-Large

Jeffrey E. Stein

Town of Clifton

Roland Taylor

Town of Herndon

Tom Hanton

Town of Vienna

Vacant

Slow Pitch Softball Council

Rob Hahne

Baseball Council

Steve Bergstrom

Basketball Council

Suzy Willemssen

Fast Pitch Softball Council

Mark Meana

Football Council

Mary Ann Wagner

Lacrosse Council

Lula Bauer

Chairwoman

Soccer Council

Rob Bailly

Volleyball Council

Hillary Richardson

Women's Sports Programs

Fairfax County Athletic Council and Neighborhood and Community Services



Fairfax County
**Neighborhood and
Community Services**

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/NCS



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For more information, call 703-324-4600, TTY 711.

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