

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Amy Dillon, Public Information Officer, adillon@phd5.id.gov

SCPHD's Health Heroes 2026 Nomination Period is Open

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to improve the health in your community? Now is your chance to recognize them! South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is accepting nominations for Health Heroes 2026. Health Heroes are individuals, groups, and businesses that have made a big difference in the health of residents of South Central Idaho in the last calendar year.

SCPHD will honor one organization or person for each of the four Health Hero categories: Youth, Adult Volunteer, Adult Professional, and Organization. People and organizations who have won the Health Hero title in the last three years, and employees of SCPHD, are not eligible to receive a Health Hero award this year.

“At its heart, public health is about neighbors helping neighbors,” said Logan Hudson, Director of South Central Public Health District. “Every day across our eight counties, there are people stepping up to solve problems, support families, and create healthier environments for everyone. The Health Heroes awards are our opportunity to shine a light on those efforts and celebrate the dedication that makes South Central Idaho stronger and healthier for all.”

The Health Hero award is for residents in South Central Idaho, which includes Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties. Nominees must live in one of these counties to be eligible for the award.

SCPHD will present one winner (person or organization) in each of the four nomination categories, including:

Youth: A volunteer, 18 years old or younger, who has made a big impact on the health of their community. Please limit entries to one person per nomination.

Adult Volunteer: A member of the community, over the age of 18, who is volunteering outside of their profession. This person must have volunteered time on a community project, initiative, or within an

organization and their efforts have helped their community become healthier. Please limit entries to one person per nomination.

Adult Professional: A member of the community, over the age of 18, who works in health care or community health and goes above and beyond in their job or hobby to help make their community healthier. Please limit entries to one person per nomination.

Organization: A group of people (youth or adult) who have made a big impact on their community health over the last year. Please limit entries in this category to groups of two or more residents.

See previous winners on SCPHD's website at phd5.idaho.gov/health-heroes. Find nomination forms on the website, at one of SCPHD's five offices, or by calling 208-737-5900.

Nominations are due by the end of the business day on April 1, 2026. All mailed nominations must be postmarked by April 1, 2026. Health Hero award winners will be honored on **May 20, 2026** at the SCPHD Regional Board of Health meeting.

On the nomination form, please include a detailed description explaining why your nominee deserves the Health Hero Award and how they have impacted their community. Examples of qualifying activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Promoting a healthy lifestyle through activities at schools, churches, and places of work
- Programs/activities to reduce suicides
- Promoting physical activity or other activities that help reduce obesity
- Help preparing a community for a disaster
- Efforts to decrease workplace injuries or illness
- Promoting policies that led to healthy outcomes
- Helping to expand health information outreach to hard-to-reach communities

Employees of South Central Public Health District are not eligible to receive a Health Hero award. If you would like to recognize an SCPHD staff member please feel free to call one of our offices, email scphd@phd5.id.gov, or leave a message on Facebook.