



# The Congressional Award

## 2017 GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

### VENUE/GROUP PHOTO INFO

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#### HISTORY OF THE U.S. CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER CONGRESSIONAL AUDITORIUM

The U.S. Capitol Visitor Center provides a welcoming and educational environment for visitors to learn about the unique characteristics of the House and the Senate and the legislative process as well as the history and development of the architecture and art of the U.S. Capitol.

The U.S. Capitol Visitor Center is the newest addition to the historic Capitol Complex. At nearly 580,000 square feet, the Visitor Center is the largest project in the Capitol's more than two century history and is approximately three quarters the size of the Capitol itself. The entire facility is located underground on the east side of the Capitol so as not to detract from the appearance of the Capitol and the grounds designed by Frederick Law Olmstead in 1874. Since opening on December 2, 2008, the anniversary of the placement of the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol Dome in 1863, millions of people have visited the Capitol, entering the Capitol Visitor Center.

The Capitol Visitor Center is located beneath the East Front plaza of the U.S. Capitol at First Street and East Capitol Street. You will be required to go through security to enter the Capitol Visitor Center. Please allow 15-20 minutes to enter. There will be staff members holding signs after you pass through security to direct Medalists and their families to the check in area and auditorium.

Before your visit please check out the list of [Prohibited Items](#) that are not able to pass through security and into the Capitol Visitor Center.

#### GROUP PHOTOS

Group photos of all 2017 Gold Medalists will be taken at the Capitol Reflecting Pool located west of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW, in between Maryland and Pennsylvania Avenues.

Immediately following the first Ceremony, Medalists will be led to group photos. Medalists from the second Ceremony should arrive at the picture location no later than 11:45 a.m. Please look for The Congressional Award staff who will have signs. **The group photos will begin promptly following the first Gold Medal Ceremony on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 (tentative start – 12:00 p.m.).** If you are affiliated with any of our partnering organizations, please listen for your group, as these photos are sent to the organizations and news outlets for press purposes.

We understand that the middle of June in the middle of the day is not the ideal temperature to take a picture, and we ask for your cooperation and patience as we try to capture your accomplishments with your fellow Medalists.

We will be taking the group photo of all 2017 Gold Medalists first, followed by organization photos (not necessarily in this order):

4-H  
Air Force & Other Military  
American Red Cross  
AmeriCorps NCCC  
Boy Scouts of America  
Boys and Girls Clubs of America  
Civil Air Patrol

Girl Scouts of the USA  
HOBY  
Missouri State Council  
Nevada State Council  
People to People International  
St. Louis Irish Arts  
Wyoming State Council

If you have any additional questions about the ceremony and events, please contact Gold Medal Event Coordinator Kirsten Gooden at (202) 226-0130 or [gold@congressionalaward.org](mailto:gold@congressionalaward.org).

For additional ceremony details, please visit [www.congressionalaward.org/2017gold](http://www.congressionalaward.org/2017gold).