

# WNC Honors Program

## Member Benefits

### Connection with Other Communities and their Best Practices

Members gain access to monthly Coffee Hours, held on the first Wednesday of every month via Zoom. WNC Communities combs the communities' WNC Honors applications each year to find examples of best practices. We invite leaders from communities with exemplary programs or successes to come and present how they did it so other communities can learn from their experience. Community leaders also meet in break out rooms to get to know each other.

#### Examples of past topics include:

- Grant Writing Tips from the Pros
- Engaging Youth
- Getting the Word Out
- Fundraising Success

### Education

WNC Communities offers online and in-person regional training and workshops to member communities.

#### Past workshop topic examples include:

- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention
- Expanding Board Leadership
- How to Run a Great Meeting and
- Grant Writing Prep

### George H.V. Cecil Journey Scholarship

Only high school seniors from member communities can apply for this renewable, 4-year scholarship.

### Strategic Planning

Each year, we select 2 communities that are nearing the Redbud level to receive tailored assistance and facilitated strategic planning. Others can attend workshops.

### Grant Alerts

We provide grant roundups twice a year to educate our members about specific opportunities, and about upcoming grants.



*Strategic Planning workshop at Spring Creek Community Center, hosted by WNC Communities.*

### Cash Awards & Recognition

Each year in November, we hold our WNC Honors Awards where we celebrate the accomplishments of our communities. Each community receives a ~\$750 award for participating in the WNC Honors Program. The program educates members about best practices to advance through four increasing levels of organizational excellence. There are additional cash awards for Best in Class at each level ranging from \$250 - \$2000.

### Members-Only Website Access

Our WNC Honors Learning Center is a website containing an archive of all our Coffee Hours, webinars, templates, and best practice articles. It also contains a private, password protected Members Directory where communities can share their best practices and contact each other for more information.

### Technical Support

Staff do our best to answer your questions about best practices for programs, leadership, volunteerism, governance, financial stewardship, and collaboration.

**For more information, contact Susan Garrett at (828) 252-4783 or [susangarrett@wnccommunities.org](mailto:susangarrett@wnccommunities.org).**