

NSC Scholarship Program

Dotson Safety Leadership Award



INFORMATION SHEET & FAQ

Information Sheet

About the Award

The Dotson Safety Leadership Award recognizes one exceptional Certified Safety Professional under age 40 who is shaping the future of workplace safety through leadership, innovation, and ethical excellence. Established through the Kyle B. Dotson Endowment, this \$10,000 award honors mid-career professionals making significant impact in the field. Recipients receive national recognition and access to NSC events and professional development opportunities.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Dotson Safety Leadership Award, candidates must:

- **Be under age 40 as of January 1, 2026**

This award recognizes mid career professionals—established safety practitioners who have proven their impact and are ready to lead at the next level.

- Hold a valid BCSP Certified Safety Professional (CSP) credential.
- Be a currently practicing Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) professional.
- Be employed in any sector except government
- Not currently serving on any NSC committees involved in award decisions.

Award Details

- \$10,000 unrestricted financial award
- Recognition at the NSC Congress & Expo
- Featured in NSC communications and professional networks
- Ongoing access to NSC learning and leadership opportunities

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Application Requirements

Candidates may not nominate themselves. Each application must include nominator contact information. Candidates must complete the online application form and upload the following materials:

a. Professional Experience and Credentials

- Updated CV or résumé
- Confirmation of BCSP credential in good standing

b. Personal Statement (500–750 words)

- Describe your commitment to safety leadership and how you are advancing the field.
- Include examples of innovation, collaboration, and impact in your work.
- Include the most outstanding achievements of your safety career.

c. Leadership in the Profession

- Evidence of contributions to the safety community through:
 - Volunteerism
 - Outreach
 - Mentorship
 - Best practice development

d. Recognition & Awards

- List of professional honors, certifications, recognitions or milestones relevant to safety.

e. Colleague Support (Three Required Letters of Recommendation)

- Letters must come from individuals who:
 - Have direct professional knowledge of the applicant.
 - One of the three should be submitted by the nominator.

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Selection Timeline

Step	Date
Nominations Open	January 12, 2026
Application Deadline	April 6, 2026
Selection Review	April – May 2026
Recipient Notification	June 2026
Public Recognition	September 2026 (NSC Congress & Expo)

**Award recipient will be notified in June with advance notice before the public recognition at Congress & Expo in September.

Why This Award Matters

Kyle B. Dotson established this award to support professionals like himself—those who came from modest beginnings, found purpose in safety and now lead with integrity and vision. The award is intended to be substantial, visible and meaningful—not just a résumé line, but a catalyst for the next phase of leadership and impact.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the nominee or nominator have to be a member of the National Safety Council?

No. NSC membership is not required for the nominator or the nominee. Membership status is not considered during the review process.

My nominee received an award from the National Safety Council. Are they still eligible?

Yes. Previous awards or recognitions do not affect eligibility. This award is judged independently, based solely on the current application materials.

Is there a fee to apply?

No. There are no application or nomination fees for this award.

When and how are submissions accepted?

Applications are accepted through NSC's online awards portal. Paper or emailed submissions will not be accepted. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

Nominations open: January 12, 2026

Submission deadline: April 6, 2026

Link to apply will be available at: nsc.org/scholarships

How will my nomination be judged and by whom?

All eligible submissions will be reviewed by NSC staff for completion, then forwarded to a panel of external reviewers with diverse EHS leadership experience.

A blind review process is used. Reviewers do not see identifying information (e.g., name, employer) about the nominee. This ensures selections are based solely on merit, leadership and impact.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can candidates nominate themselves?

No. Candidates may not nominate themselves.

Each submission must include the name and contact information of a nominator who can speak to the candidate's qualifications and leadership in the field. While the candidate is responsible for completing the online application and uploading all required materials, the nominator's support is an essential part of the submission process.

Required materials include:

- Confirmation of BCSP CSP credential
- Updated résumé or CV
- Personal statement (500–750 words)
- Three letters of recommendation from colleagues or mentors
- Examples of contributions to safety, ethical leadership, and innovation
- Completed nominator contact section

Note: The nominator does not submit the application—only the nominee can complete and submit the final online form.

What are the expectations for award recipients?

Recipients are strongly encouraged to attend the [NSC Congress & Expo](#) in September 2026 for public recognition of the award. NSC will assist with planning and promotion related to the award presentation, however, travel and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the recipient and will not be covered by NSC.

Recipients may be invited to:

- Participate in NSC communications about their work and impact
- Share insights with the safety community through articles or presentations
- Engage with NSC professional development opportunities

The \$10,000 award is unrestricted and can be used at the recipient's discretion.

There are no reporting requirements or restrictions on how funds are used.

Have Questions?

Contact:

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