

SODZ Volunteer of the Year Award

Revised 9/15/25

The strength of SODZ comes from the time and energy our members contribute to supporting the club and the homebrewing community. To recognize these efforts, we are proud to introduce the **Volunteer of the Year Award**—an annual honor celebrating the member who has gone above and beyond in service throughout the year.

The SODZ calendar resets every September and runs through the following August. Points are awarded for a variety of volunteer activities, and the member with the highest total at the end of the club year will be named Volunteer of the Year. The prize will be a \$50 gift card for Buckeye Brewcraft. Additionally, the first runner-up will earn a \$25 gift card for Buckeye Brewcraft.

Our first winners will be announced in 2026 for the 2025-2026 season. This will coincide with the Brewer of the Year award presentation.

Eligibility

- Any current SODZ member in good standing may earn points.
- Sitting members of the SODZ Board of Directors are ineligible for the award.

Reporting/Tracking

The Volunteer Leaderboard will be published on the [SODZ.org](https://sodz.org) website similar to the tracking of Brewer of the Year. The Board will make every effort to account for volunteer points earned, but we ask that members let us know if we've missed anything.

For our BJCP sanctioned events, we ask that members register for judge, steward, and staff positions on the competition websites. This will enable better tracking of these points.

Competition Points

SODZ members receive volunteer points for judging, stewarding, or serving as a staff member for SODZ competitions: British Beerfest, Beer for Boobs, Iron Kettle, monthly Club Competitions, and other competitions as they arise.

Judging – Points are earned for judging in any SODZ competition, and BJCP certification is not required to earn points.

- Judges earn 1 Point per *day*.
- Best of Show (BOS) Judges earn an additional 1 Point per *BOS session*.

Stewarding – Stewarding includes facilitating the monthly Club Competitions, and stewarding at British Beerfest, Beer for Boobs, or at the Iron Kettle judging session.

- Stewards earn 1 Point per *day*.
- The Head Steward (if appointed) earns an additional 1 Point per *competition*.

Staff Members – This category is only for our BJCP competitions (British Beerfest and Beer for Boobs). For most roles, staff points cannot be stacked (e.g. if you are on the set-up crew the day of the event, and you also steward or judge, you will earn volunteer points for one activity on that day, but not for both roles). Staff points are awarded as follows:

- Cellar staff earns 1 Point per *competition*.
- The set-up crew (day of the event) earns 1 Point per *competition*.
- The check-in crew (prior to the event date) earns 1 Point per *competition*.
- Fundraiser (for Beer for Boobs donations/prizes) earns 1 Point per *competition*.

Non-Competition Points

SODZ members receive volunteer points for service to the club in educational, outreach, and other activities. The following is a list of ways to earn points. If you are unsure about an activity's eligibility for volunteer points, please ask a board member. As the program is new, we are open to suggestions.

Club Event Support – This includes taking on a lead role in planning or facilitating any of our non-competition events. Volunteers will earn between 1 to 2 Points per *activity*, at the Board's discretion. Examples include:

- Big Brew Day, Learn to Homebrew Day, Summer Picnic, Holiday Party (including facilitating the gift exchange).

Education – This category recognizes members who give back to the club through an organized knowledge/skills exchange. Volunteers will earn 1 Point for each *session*. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Giving a presentation at a monthly meeting.
- Facilitating a club-organized tasting (style discrimination, off-flavors, etc.).
- Leading a club-sanctioned study group or training program that is open to all club members.

Marketing & Outreach – This is a broad category that allows for some expansion of membership roles outside of the Board. Volunteers in this category will earn 1 Point for each *activity*, at the Board's discretion. Larger, ongoing responsibilities may necessitate a pre-negotiated points system.

- Outreach includes speaking on behalf of SODZ at industry events, professional organization meetings, or non-SODZ organized educational events.
- Marketing includes promoting the club with the intent to engage and inform the public, and increase club membership. In the future, it may include responsibility for SODZ social media posting.