

IFEA / Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination Form

INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION INFORMATION

Name: Steve Rosenauer
Event: Fiesta Oyster Bake
Organization: St. Mary's University Alumni Association
Address: One Camino Santa Maria
City/State/Zip: San Antonio, TX 78228
Phone: (210) 436-3324
Fax: (210) 431-6864
E-mail: srosenauer@stmarytx.edu

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name: Darrell Stewart
Event: Fiesta Oyster Bake
Organization: St. Mary's University Alumni Association
Address: One Camino Santa Maria
City/State/Zip: San Antonio, TX 78228
Phone: (210) 436-3324
Fax: (210) 431-6864
E-mail: dgs@lodgs.com

1. Explain your volunteer's significant depth of involvement. (20 points)

In August at the 2012 Texas Festivals and Events Association's (TFEA) Annual Conference, Darrell was selected as the 2012 Volunteer of the Year!

Because of Darrell's successful 20 year commitment to the Fiesta Oyster Bake, his depth of involvement hit its pinnacle in 2012.

As the 2012 Fiesta Oyster Bake Chair, Darrell led the 7,000 plus volunteers and 70,000 patrons to a record year (\$2.5 million gross). Darrell's initiative, leadership and decision making helped secure the event's largest one – year and multi – year sponsor, enhanced the entertainment line-up, increased the publicity efforts, including achieving 4 million plus hits to our web site, and introduced new attractions to the event. Darrell accomplished all of this while having to redesign and redevelop the grounds plan 2 months before the event.

Darrell's leadership and involvement will continue to benefit the St. Mary's University Alumni Association for many years to come. In August 2012, Darrell was installed as the Alumni Association's President representing 30,000 St. Mary's Alumni worldwide.

He will hold this position for two years and then become a member of the University's Trustees.

He will also continue to be a member of the Fiesta Oyster Bake Committee and serve as a leader in developing plans for the 100 Year Anniversary of the event in 2016.

2. Show specific examples of your volunteer's roles and responsibilities. (10 points)

Darrell Stewart has held many roles, each with increasing responsibility, over the past 20 years. He has progressed through the Fiesta Oyster Bake's organizational structure as a Volunteer, Booth Chair, Section Manager, Executive Committee Member and Event Chair. Through each volunteer area, Darrell made significant impacts on enhancing the effectiveness and efficiencies of those particular areas.

As a Coupon Booth Chair, Darrell secured and trained dozens of volunteers to handle large amounts of cash and provide positive customer service.

As a Section Manager, Darrell helped develop that operation by providing assistance to hundreds of volunteers to a specific area of booths (food, beverage, finance, etc.) so that those booth chairs and volunteers had the correct supplies, training and support for which to do their jobs.

As a Section Manager, Darrell would meet with each booth chair in his section before the event to review food and beverage orders, distribution operations and volunteer management. During the event, Darrell would manage the section by evaluating the operations, interacting with the volunteers and providing important feedback on the post event analysis.

Darrell's roles as Booth Chair and Section Manager helped the event earn hundreds of thousands of dollars, provided a safe and fun atmosphere for the patrons and retained thousands of volunteers.

Because of his successful efforts as a Booth Chair and a Section Manager, Darrell was selected to join the Fiesta Oyster Bake Executive Committee.

As a member of the Executive Committee, Darrell's primary responsibilities included overseeing all of the event's Ground's and Logistics Management and Security and Risk Management Operations. Darrell has contributed many volunteer hours developing the 100 acres plus grounds plan and the security plan for 70,000 patrons and 7,000 volunteers each year.

Darrell has been successful in each area of responsibility, which is why he has been elected twice as the Fiesta Oyster Bake Chair. Serving as the Fiesta Oyster Bake Chair twice is an accomplishment that has only been achieved by a few individuals in the 97 years of the event.

3. Describe how your volunteer has provided significant enthusiasm, organizational assistance and specific expertise. (10 points)

I believe that Darrell Stewart should be the 2013 IFEA / Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year because he has given his time and talent to St. Mary's University, the St. Mary's University Alumni Association and the Fiesta Oyster Bake for the past 20 years so that the Alumni Association can provide necessary scholarship funds to more than 230 students each year.

As a graduate of the St. Mary's University School of Law, Darrell has taken personal time from his Law practice to give thousands of hours of volunteer service to his alma mater. Darrell began his volunteer commitment by selling coupons at the Fiesta Oyster Bake. In 2012, Darrell successfully held the position of Fiesta Oyster Bake Chair (the second time he has held that role) and will be installed as the President of the St. Mary's University Alumni Association.

Darrell's energy and enthusiasm is always very positive and supportive because he believes in the mission of the event to provide scholarship funds to St. Mary's students. His can – do, will – do, attitude is infectious among the Fiesta Oyster Bake's 7,000 plus volunteers. Darrell has used his expertise to help negotiate vendor agreements that have saved the event thousands of dollars, and confirm sponsor agreements that have earned the event millions of dollars in cash and in kind services. Because of Darrell's detail oriented skills, he has helped design the 100 acre plus ground's and logistics plan for an event held on a University campus, and he has helped develop, implement and follow through on the event's TFEA and IFEA award winning Safety and Security Plan.

4. Explain how your volunteer has shown initiative and leadership in his / her efforts. (20 points)

Darrell has shown initiative and leadership for the Fiesta Oyster Bake in many ways.

As the Grounds / Logistics Manager for the event for the last 10 plus years, Darrell has had to redesign the event's grounds several times due to the University's various construction projects. Whether it is a Sports Complex, Convocation Center, Bell Tower or grove of trees, each project presented its own challenges that caused significant changes to the grounds.

Darrell showed leadership by meeting with the University President and Vice Presidents to reemphasize the importance of the event and discuss ways in which each set of goals can be met effectively and safely. Darrell showed initiative by developing the plans that took into account all of the aspects of the event; crowd flow, location of booths and stages, security and safety plan for those areas, truck parking, port a johns, etc. Darrell then successfully communicated these changes to the various constituencies of the University community, as well as the Fiesta Oyster Bake Key Volunteers.

As Security and Risk Management Manager, Darrell took over this responsibility several years ago to help bring more professionalism to that area in working with the St. Mary's Campus Police Chief. Darrell provided the leadership to develop the first ever Security and Safety Plan document. As a lawyer and recognizing the liability involved in conducting the Fiesta Oyster Bake, Darrell coordinated many meetings with all of the police agencies to develop the plan, communicate the roles and responsibilities, implement the plan and review its effectiveness. Darrell's leadership with this project contributed to the recognition of the Fiesta Oyster Bake having the Best Safety / Security Plan awarded by TFEA and IFEA. Most importantly, the Fiesta Oyster Bake is recognized as a safe event among our 70,000 patrons, 7,000 plus volunteers, thousands of University neighbors and hundreds of police personnel assisting in the event.

5. Tell how your volunteer has exemplified his / her dependability. (10 points)

Over the years, Darrell's dependability to the event and the Alumni Association has been tremendous. Many times, he has sacrificed personal and professional goals and obligations to see that the Fiesta Oyster Bake and the Alumni Association can maintain its level of success to support scholarships. Whether it is attending a meeting with an hour's notice or representing the event and Association at various meetings and events, sometimes several in one week, Darrell understands that if he is to make a positive impact on the organization, he must contribute his time and talent.

One specific example of his dependability is his work with the Fiesta Oyster Bake Ground's and Logistics plan. The Bake uses 30,000 plus feet of fencing at the event and because of Darrell's expertise with the ground's layout, he oversees the installation of the fencing, including the perimeter security, entrance and exit gate access and emergency exit only areas. It is not uncommon to see Darrell walking those 30,000 plus feet continuously, carrying fence panels around the grounds during set up and using his trusty wire cutters to fix fence wires and open areas of fence to ease in crowd control.

As Staff Director, I know during the event that if there are any fence issues on the grounds, Darrell will handle it quickly, professionally and safely. Because of this one example of Darrell's commitment, the Fiesta Oyster Bake staff and volunteers have been able to depend on Darrell for many tasks and responsibilities. No job is too big or too small for Darrell.

6. Describe your volunteer's positive attitude. (10 points)

Darrell has a positive attitude because as he says, "Because of the volunteers, the Fiesta Oyster Bake is successful." Darrell sees the positive attitude from the volunteers, especially his 2012 Executive Committee. Fiesta Oyster Bake volunteers contribute 50,000 plus volunteer hours each year attending meetings throughout the year, sometimes 4 nights a week, BBQ'ing in the hot sun for hours and hours at the event, handling hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, making sure the bands follow their contracts and accepting the responsibility and liability of serving alcoholic beverages to our patrons.

These volunteers do this because they want to give back to an event that helps students, and because of the volunteers and the mission of the event, Darrell remains positive focusing on doing a good job to support the mission, offering words of encouragement to the volunteers and staff, communicating all of the benefits of the event to the media and working side by side with staff and fellow volunteers to help show that all of the tasks are important to making the Fiesta Oyster Bake a success.

7. Describe how your volunteer has made a difference to the festival or event. What impact has your volunteer had on your festival/event? What void would there be without him or her as a volunteer? (20 points)

As stated above in other answers, Darrell has made a tremendous and successful difference to the Fiesta Oyster Bake, St. Mary's University and the St. Mary's University Alumni Association.

Darrell also has made a positive difference in the Festival and Event Industry. Darrell not only gives of his time and talent to the Fiesta Oyster Bake and St. Mary's University, he was elected in 2012 to serve as a voting member on the Executive Committee of the Fiesta San Antonio Commission.

Also as a volunteer, Darrell has attended and volunteered at numerous TFEA Conferences and Workshops over the years, and he has also attended the IFEA Conferences. Darrell truly believes in the importance of TFEA, IFEA and Fiesta because he sees first-hand the positive educational and networking opportunities available. He credits these organizations with providing resources to help make the Fiesta Oyster Bake a more successful event.

Darrell has taken all of his knowledge, expertise and desire to make the Fiesta Oyster Bake, and festivals and events in general, a successful endeavor to involve the community, provide for a specific mission or goal, create long lasting memories and most importantly, HAVE FUN!

Without Darrell, many tactical aspects of the Fiesta Oyster Bake would not be achieved, but more importantly, without Darrell's leadership and commitment, thousands of St. Mary's University students would not have realized the dream of a college education.