This form is to help you make selections in the nominating and voting form for the STF Awards.

I. Nomination Process- Frequently Asked Questions

1. Nomination Selection

All awards will strive to have up to 5 nominations if possible. A character becomes nominated when they have at least 2 nominations. There are times however, when it is not possible to have 5 nominations. Some situations may include things like not enough entries within the awards time interval. Another reason is that people may often only vote for categories they have an interest in thereby decreasing the possible number of nominations in a category. If we have more than five nominations in a category, where writers have received 2 or more votes, categories can be increased to six or whatever is needed to represent the writers. Our goal is to strive to be as fair as possible while following the guidelines set forth for the STF Awards.

ALL CHARACTERS MUST BE FULLY ROSTERED DURING THE AWARD PERIOD which means they must have a posting limit assigned to them. No exceptions to this rule.

2. Why are the same people nominated every year?

- Every year people wonder why the same people win over and over. This is due to the simple fact that we do not get as many nominations every year as we need. Many times individuals nominate only a few writers. They nominate 3-5 categories on their nomination form and stop selecting choices for other categories. Last year on average only 40% of each nomination ballot was filled out to completion. This leads us to not reaching the 5 nominations per category we strive for many of the categories

So please take your time and read your ships. Read your fellow players and nominate them based on their writing merits. Also, don't be afraid to put your own name down. You never know who might also nominate you giving a wider range of voting options. Every nomination counts.

3. Can unrostered Characters be nominated?

- No. Unrostered characters are not held to the same posting requirements as main characters. As such it is often the case people post less with them or they have much less effect on a sim. We want to reward characters that are written often and are the backbone of STF.

4. Can X-fleet characters be nominated?

- Yes, they have their very own unique categories to give the X-fleet writers a chance to shine. We have included two awards:

1. Best X-fleet ship
2. Best X-fleet JO
3. Best X-fleet Senior Crew

X-Fleet ships and characters cannot be nominated outside these awards, due to the nature of X-Fleet being experimental. Despite this, if you have a ship/character you love please nominate them. They can't win if you don't nominate.

5. Can anyone be nominated?

- Yes anyone can be nominated for an award who has had an active character from June 2020 to March 2021. In the past a JO could not be nominated if they had a DH role in the same department, but this is no longer the case. The only exclusions to a nomination is if the character was unrostered or a member of x-fleet (more details on how x-fleet nominations work is found in section 4.)

6. Who can vote in the STF awards?

- Anyone can vote.

7. What happens if I get two of my characters nominated for the same category?

-If you are up for the same position for two separate characters where each character has received at least two votes (ex two science JO's, two medical DH's, two swing positions, etc), we will allow you to choose which one you want to use or if you want to use both the characters. We offer this in case you wish to avoid splitting your votes between yourself so that your best character you feel has a chance to win. In the past, there have been times someone has lost the award because while they had the largest percentage of votes as a writer, the split in the vote gave their character, not enough individual votes to win overall. If this situation, while rare at times, does occur, we will contact the writer and let them make the final decision in how they want to be represented. If you do not wish to do this, you are allowed to keep both nominations in.

8. What happens if I get nominated?

- If you make the ballot for the awards in a category that is allowed to have an excerpt, an email will be sent to notify you before hand letting you know of this.We want people to be able to show off their skills more than ever and this will give everyone a chance to let people see just how amazing you truly are.

As a reminder, all excerpts MUST be from the current awards interval.

9. How is a nomination validated?

The awards team uses the main roster to find characters and writers in the nomination process. This is because at times people will nominate the author Mary Sue in a category. If Mary Sue had three Jo's in the same department over several ships, she would still get into the awards but we would contact Mary Sue to select the character she wishes to place in the awards.

ALL CHARACTERS MUST BE FULLY ROSTERED DURING THE AWARD PERIOD which means they must have a posting limit assigned to them. No exceptions to this rule. See the reason for not permitting characters without a posting limit (ie: unrostered characters) in question #3.

10. Can I nominate a character that is no longer active on the roster?
Yes you can nominate a character that is no longer active BUT was active during the award interval. If you do this please provide as much information as possible for us to validate the writer/character nomination. For example, if Ensign Sally Smith is nominated as a medical JO during the award period but is now deactivated, they will NOT show up on the main roster. Since the main roster is our first step in validating a nomination, if we do not see EnsignSally Smith we will have no way to find out who the writer of Ensign Sally Smith is so that vote will not count. So please for all nominations, please let us know both the name of the player and the character and this ship if possible for those you wish to nominate for an award, as it can be quite hard to track people down especially in cases if they removed character at some point. If the character/player has not been played or involved in the club during that period, they are not eligible.

11. Nominating Best Ships
Any ship, regardless of whether it is alt-RPG or not, is eligible to be nominated for in the Best ship category. In the past, the awards did separate groups for ships based on whether they were a space station, Alt-RPG area, Alt-RPG ship, etc. This was seen as a way to spotlight more ships and the writers on them; however as the number of ships and the number of fleets have decreased we have decided to allow more entries, at times, in categories in order to focus on what is important: Writers and the writing on a ship.

12. Can someone be nominated as both a JO and DH in the same department?
Any rostered character, that is eligible per the awards guidelines, can be nominated for this award even if they hold a DH role in the same department.

II. ***Excerpt- Frequently Asked Questions***- we often get a lot of questions about this section in the awards so we have tried to break it down. We understand most of this information is understood by the club but we do have new people entering the club all the time. This may be the first time cadets or new members are participating in the awards so while the information in this at times is simplistic, we want to make sure we cover every topic for both the seasoned members and the newbies.

1. **What is the difference between excerpts, posts, and links?**
    a. Excerpt = a short extract from your post.
    b. Post = is what you write for your character.
    c. Link = is the URL on the top of the webpage. Below is an example



2. **How long is the Excerpt?**
The excerpt can be up to 1,000 characters. This does include spaces. We will truncate the piece if needed to make sure it fits this limit. If we have to truncate we will at exactly the 1000 character limit. We will try to make sure the truncation reflects the best of the excerpt you gave us.

    a. **Examples of excerpts are:**

    https://www.star-fleet.com/core/stf3/dresden/posts/128509/
    Renveer signaled to the science station to compile the sensor readings requested by the chief medical officer. “Get those scans sent to Dr. Janvier as soon as possible. This is a rescue mission first and a first contact mission second.” He turned to Forgrave and Harris. “Assemble an away team, they head to our umbilical docking mechanism. Prepare to board the alien vessel when engineering gives us the all-clear. Find Chief Hsull and take him with you, we can’t discount the possibility that there are dangerous beings aboard the station that may have caused this phenomenon.”

    Nervously, NE Johansson’s flew across the terminal, pulling up the scans and sending them to the requested console. “Aye, Sir. I’m on it.”

    The comm call interrupted her thoughts. Glancing for a moment at the Ensign standing and picking up on Renveer’s orderes, she quickly pressed her commbadge, to reply.

    (Lt. Cmdr. Renveer, XO)

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https://www.star-fleet.com/core/stf3/outpost42/posts/127663/

"Thank you for the congratulations. Most people only get it when they have their first. It's all baby showers and balloons but then the second kid or third kid comes along and people are like dude how many do you have now," she laughed. "We did not find out the sex because we have one of each already. We decided to go with a surprise on this one. Are you from a big family," she pulled out the tricorder.

Chloe Harland

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https://www.star-fleet.com/core/stf5/saracen/notes/45411/

Jarred paused as he listened to what Elizabeth said, his face sunk as he took a deep breath, "Official baby… official is just a grown-up term in some ways. There is though importance in the term, it means that I want to live with Kalani till I grow old and grey like papa. It also means that Kalani, who loves you with all her heart, wants the entire galaxy to know that you are her daughter. That she loves you and she is your mommy. Official may be a grown-up term, but it simply means we are going out of our way to love someone so much, we just want the entire galaxy to know that these are the people we love." he said hoping that this made sense to her. He wasn't quite sure how else to explain a topic like this, but he felt the need to elaborate more.

"For me, and I am sure for Kalani too peanut… becoming official this way is an act of love. It is a way to show this love, Lani and I tell you we love you all the time and Lani tells you she loves us all the time as well. I know you feel…"

Alindor, CE

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3. **My excerpt is longer than the post I want to submit? What do I do?**
   An excerpt does not have to be the whole piece as you can see in the last one by Alindor, CE. It can trail off mid-sentence because the link **WILL BE** included so that the reader can go back and read more of your fabulous piece. I

4. **Do all excerpts need a link?**
   ALL excerpts must have a link so we are able to verify the piece submitted is within the June 2020 to March 2021 awards period. **Excerpts without a link will not be included** because we will not be able to verify that they are within the awards period.

A link is super easy to find if you don't know where to go. All you have to do is open up the post you sent us. Then copy the link at the top of the page and paste that in the email. See question one is you needed more clarification.

5. **Can the awards team find the link if I send in the excerpt?**
   Unfortunately we cannot commit to finding links for individuals because we cannot promise to be able to do it for everyone. The number of nominations can vary from 100-150 on average so it would be nearly impossible for us to look up a character and search their posts to find the link. Again we also use the link to verify the piece was within the awards season so without the link, it would be exceedingly difficult to verify posts.

   Since we try to be fair to everyone we will need all nominees to send both the link and excerpt. We will need the exact link to the excerpt to post the excerpt.