

The AMR In-Spurr-ational Award

The AMR inspirational award is named after Robert Spurr, a man famous for being the first person to run a time on Bird Ridge under his age. He was such an inspiration that after his death from a fall in Colorado in 1995, the Bird Ridge race was re-named the Robert Spurr Memorial Hill Climb. Talk of his mountain running exploits on mountains such as Wolverine and Bird Ridge went far and wide. Keeping with the Robert Spurr tradition, AMR annually awards an “In-Spurr-ational” award to exceptional mountain runners who encourage and motivate as Robert did.

The current AMR Board of Directors as well as past recipients of the award annually comprise the committee that votes for each year’s winner.

The criteria for a nomination is that the individual "must have participated in multiple mountain running events in this calendar year, whether as a racer, volunteer and/or organizer."

Previous In-Spurr-ational awardees:

- 1996 — Tim Neale
- 1997 — Tom Corbin
- 1998 — Barney Griffith
- 1999 — Pam Richter
- 2000 — Heinrich Gruber
- 2001 — Ellyn Brown
- 2002 — Alan “Corky” Corthell
- 2003 — Craig Harpel
- 2004 — Cedar Bourgeois
- 2005 — Joe Mortiboy
- 2006 — Norm Johnson
- 2007 — Braun & Lance Kopsack
- 2008 — Trond Flagstad
- 2009 — Greg Brown
- 2010 — Fred Moore
- 2011 — Elaine Nelson
- 2012 — Mary Hensel & Millie Spezialy
- 2013 — Eric Strabel
- 2014 — Matt Kenney
- 2015 — Brad Precosky
- 2016 — Christy Marvin
- 2017 — Evan Steinhauser
- 2018 — Matias Saari
- 2019 — Michael Connelly
- 2020 — No award due to pandemic
- 2021 — Bill Spencer
- 2022 — Nancy Pease
- 2023 — Meg Inokuma
- 2024 — Gail Taylor