

25th Reunion: Chief Marshal Overview and Selection Process

Chief Marshal Overview

The Chief Marshal, a member of the Harvard College class celebrating its 25th Reunion, serves as the honorary leader of all University alumni during Harvard Alumni Day. This person will greet classes as they process into Harvard Yard, designate “marshal’s aids” to help with duties as part of the Harvard Alumni Association’s Happy Committee, and preside over the Chief Marshal Luncheon.

Serving as Chief Marshal of alumni is a special honor and a longstanding Harvard tradition that dates back to 1899. The honor of selecting the Chief Marshal is delegated to members of the College class holding its 25th Reunion who are asked to select one of their classmates to serve in this role. The Chief Marshal role is separate from the Marshal roles on the Class Committee (although Class Committee Marshals certainly might be nominated to be Chief Marshal).

You can learn more about recent Chief Marshals on the [HAA website](#).

Chief Marshal Criteria

The Chief Marshal Nominating Committee invites nominations from the class. The criteria are as follows:

- Contribution to one’s community and the larger society
- Success in one’s career(s), vocation(s), and/or avocation(s)
- Service and support to the 25th Reunion Class and/or Harvard University

While it may be unlikely that any one classmate would be exceptional in all three areas, nominees should demonstrate distinction in at least two of the three.

Chief Marshal Nominations and Election

The Chief Marshal selection process begins in July, when the HAA College Alumni Programs team sends an email to the entire 25th reunion class seeking submissions for Chief Marshal recommendations along with thoughts as to why their nominee(s) would be an ideal candidate(s). This email also invites classmates to join the Chief Marshal Nominating Committee.

The Chief Marshal Nominating Committee meets twice during the fall to discuss all nominees and work toward putting together a final slate. These final nominees will be notified before the slate is announced and to confirm their availability to participate in Harvard Alumni Day if they are elected as Chief Marshal. In October, the Nominating Committee will propose the slate of 12 candidates from all the nominees to the HAA Board of Directors at their fall meeting.

The slate of 12 will be put to an online vote by the 25th Reunion class in January. Following the election, the winning candidate will be notified, and once they confirm, the other candidates on the slate will be told the results. Once all the candidates have been notified, the results will be announced to the class and to the HAA Board of Directors at their winter meeting.