

Natural Resources Districts Natural Resource Educator of the Year

Nominations open for elementary and secondary educators

Award writing Tips

- *Be concise and write as you would speak.*
- *Type double-spaced and only on one side of the paper.*
- *Place materials in a three-ring binder no larger than one inch.*
- *Identify item by number in upper right-hand corner of each page.*
- *Include supporting materials after each response.*

Purpose & Eligibility

The purpose of the Natural Resource Educator of the year contest is to recognize the outstanding Natural Resource education efforts in our state.

Elementary (grad K-6) and secondary (grades 7-12) educators will be recognized in separate categories. All teachers in public, parochial and private schools in Nebraska may participate.

To be eligible:

- Educators must be teaching full-time in the classroom and be personally responsible for developing a natural resource education program.
- A candidate's nomination must be endorsed by their local Natural Resource District in which he or she is teaching.
- Team teachers are eligible, but awards will only be made to the designated leader.
- Educators only may qualify for this award once every 10 years.
- Educators who submit an entry and do not win the award may resubmit their entries the following year.

Deadlines

May 1 each year –NRDs submit the winning teacher entry from each category to the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts. Districts are encouraged to submit only 1 nomination from each category.

June – The NARD will forward nominations to the judges. The winners will be selected at the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts June Board meeting.

Requirements

Any teacher who meets the eligibility requirements may enter the contest. Teachers can nominate themselves, or ask a Natural Resource District or NRCS to submit their nomination.

To enter the contest:

- Include at the top or as a cover page the nominee's name, address, school and area of education. Also include the nominators name, address and organization.
- Submit a typewritten narrative which addresses the five items under "Content of Narrative."

- Include the nominee’s information, narrative and all supporting materials.
- Do not include more than two letters of recommendation.

Content of Narrative

Narratives must be typewritten and double-spaced on one side only of 8 ½”x 11” paper. Type must not be smaller than 12 point. Narratives must address the five items listed in this document. The response for each item must not exceed two pages and should be treated as a separate section. On every page, identify by number in the upper right-hand corner the item to which the response applies. Supporting materials should be located after each response.

1. *Describe your program for involving students in the betterment of natural resources.*
2. *List and describe the areas of study incorporated in your natural resource education program.*
3. *Describe any assistance received from community organizations or resource specialists from local, state or federal agencies or organizations.*
4. *Explain how the program is being extended to other grades, other areas and to people in the community.*
5. *Document how your students have applied their knowledge of natural resource conservation to individuals, groups, schools and community projects.*

Judging Criteria

Judging is based on data provided in response to items under “Content of Narrative” and on supporting materials. All materials should support the following question: *How has the teacher shown concern, scope and originality in incorporating natural resource conservation into his or her curricula?* **Judges’ decisions are final.**

Recognition

Teachers in both elementary (grades K-6) and secondary (grades 7-12) categories will be recognized on national, state, and local levels by their local NRD, the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (www.nrdnet.org), and the National Association of Conservation Districts (www.nacdnet.org).

A committee of judges will select an elementary winner and a secondary winner. These two winners receive a Natural Resource Educator of the Year certificate and any other awards or recognition deemed appropriate by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors. State winners will be recognized at the awards luncheon at the Annual Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Conference held each year in September.

Your Local District

Your local NRD will help sponsor this program. To find your local NRD, visit the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts website, www.nrdnet.org/guide/nrd_map and click on the statewide map to locate your NRD. Our partner, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service can also sponsor a teacher. For more information, visit their website at www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov/.