

Conservation Education Teacher of the Year

2023 Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Awards

Purpose and Eligibility

The purpose of the Teacher of the Year contest is to recognize the outstanding conservation education efforts of Maryland teachers. Elementary (K-5), middle (6-8), and high school (9-12) educators will be recognized in separate categories. All teachers in public, parochial and private schools in the state participating in this program are eligible. To be eligible for the contest:

- Educators must be teaching full-time in the classroom and be personally responsible for developing a conservation education program.
- A candidate's nomination must be endorsed by the conservation district in which he or she is teaching.
- Teachers who are conservation district officials cannot compete, but associate officials may.
- Team teachers are eligible, but awards will only be made to the designated leader.
- Be concise and write as you would speak.
- Entries are not restricted to the activities of the current year.
- Educators specializing only in environmental education are now eligible for the contest.

Requirements

Any teacher who meets the eligibility requirements may enter the contest. Teachers can nominate themselves, or someone else in the district may nominate them. To enter the contest:

- Fill out the entry form and have it signed by the chairperson of the local conservation district.
- Submit a typewritten narrative which addresses the five items under "Content of Narrative."
- Include the entry form, narrative and all supporting materials in a standard, one-inch, three-ring binder. The binder does not need to be completely filled. Videos and CD-ROMs should not be included.
- Do not include more than two letters of recommendation.

Content of Narrative

Narratives must be typewritten and double-spaced on one side only of 8½" x 11" paper. Type must not be smaller than 12 point (elite). Narratives must address the five items listed on this page. 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 conservation 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.

Deadlines

April 1, 2024—Nominations must be submitted to the teacher's local conservation district.

April 18, 2024—Conservation district submits the winning teacher entry from each category to MASCD.

Recognition

Teachers in elementary, middle, and high school categories will be recognized on state and local level by the MASCD. 1st place winner will receive a certificate and \$300, 2nd place will receive a certificate and \$100 and 3rd place winner will receive a certificate. There is currently no national program.

Your Local District

Your local conservation district also helps sponsor this program. To find your local district, visit www.MASCD.net.

Need More Information?

Questions regarding the program should be directed to the local soil conservation district or call MASCD 302-353-9733.

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ENTRY FORM

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION AND USE THIS PAGE AS THE COVER SHEET FOR YOUR ENTRY.

To enter information into the gray boxes, left click on your mouse and either change to unchecked for check boxes or type in the default text box where information is required.

Grade category (check one): Elementary (K-5) Secondary (6-8) High School (9-12)

Teacher

School

School address

City State Zip

Department Grade level(s) County

Approximately how many students are enrolled in your school?

What is the school-allocated budget for your conservation education program?

Please list the subject(s) that you teach:

May MASCD use all or part of your program in its educational and informational activities? Yes No

Home Address City State Zip

Telephone: Home () - School () -

Entry will be returned to the teacher's district.

Nominating Conservation District:

District Chairperson

District address

City State Zip Telephone: () -

Is the above named teacher a voting member of the conservation district board? Yes No

Chair's signature _____ Date signed

DEADLINE—April 1, 2024
Entries to be sent to the local Soil Conservation District