
UTAH EARTH SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD for Excellence in the Teaching of Natural Resources* in the Earth Sciences



Utah Geological Association Call for Teacher Applications

The Utah Geological Association (UGA) is seeking nominations for the Utah Science Teacher of the Year Award until January 31, 2020.

The UGA awards the winning teacher \$1,500 plus \$250 reimbursement for procuring resources related to earth-science teaching (e.g., materials, field trips, etc.) for the teacher and \$250 for the science department as a whole.

The winning teacher is automatically entered in the regional contest sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). It is recommended that applicants apply to the national award at the same time.

K-12 Teachers are Eligible!

All K-12 teachers of natural resources in the earth sciences are **eligible**; Utah educators who typically best meet the award requirements are instructors of:

- **Elementary science**
- **Middle school science**
- **High school Earth Science**
- **other geology or related courses**

**Natural resources are defined as earth materials used by civilization past and present, such as natural gas, petroleum, coal, oil shale, mineral ores, building stone, and energy resources from the Earth such as geothermal energy.*

Please see the other two attachments for additional information, requirements, and entry form.

Applications must be submitted no later than January 31st, 2020

Your application can be mailed to: The Utah Geological Association,
Attn: UGA TOTY Award Committee
P.O. Box 520100
Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0100

To submit your application digitally,
or more information, please contact:

Matt Affolter

Utah Geological Association, Teacher of the Year Award Committee

mdaffolter@graniteschools.org

Application Information and Judging Guidelines for Earth Science Teacher Award

Requirements: *(UGA's requirements & forms are the same as those for the national AAPG competition).*

1. **Minimum of three years full-time teaching experience** at any K-12 level.
2. Teaching **at least one unit per year on natural resources** (i.e., earth materials used by civilization past and present), for example:
 - a. Organic materials such as petroleum, natural gas, coal and oil shale.
 - b. Inorganic substances found in the Earth such as mineral ores, building stone and aggregate.
 - c. Energy resources from the Earth such as geothermal energy.
3. Teaching should include the scientific study of these resources, their origin, discovery, extraction and historic and present use. It should also include the preservation of the environment, reclamation, the conservation of resources, and the use of earth science knowledge in decision making.
4. Entries will **include the teacher's philosophy and methods of the teaching** of natural resources (both content and pedagogy), a **description of the unit and two letters of recommendation** – one each from a colleague and an administrator.
5. **Unit will be evaluated on** depth and breadth of concepts (resource origin, discovery, processing, usage, reclamation), creativity of presentation and balanced treatment of information regarding societal need and environmental issues. Please **include unit length**.

Entry Guidelines:

- All documents (see “Required Materials” list below) must be provided and signatures are required on the cover sheet.
- Single or double-spaced lines on one side only of typed, ink jet, or laser quality printing required.
- Facsimile and other electronic entry forms will not be accepted.
- Do not submit multimedia such as videotapes, computer disks, photos, photo albums, or posters.
- It is recommended that applicants apply to the national AAPG TOTY award at the same time.

Entries must be postmarked no later than January 31st, 2020

Judging Guidelines

Required Materials:

1. Cover sheet with original signatures (1 page).
2. Teacher's philosophy (pedagogy and content) of the teaching of natural resources (2 pages max)
3. Unit description, including unit objectives and the overall science program (2-3 pages).
4. Letter of recommendation from a colleague (1 page maximum).
5. Letter of recommendation from an administrator (1 page maximum).

Award Requirement:

1. Three years full-time teaching experience.
2. Teaches at least one unit per year on natural resources that fits definition of natural resources as stated in announcement.

Content Guidelines:

1. Teaching should include: scientific study of these resources, origin of resources, discovery of resource, extraction of resource, historic use and present use, conservation of resources, preservation of the environment, reclamation, and use of earth science knowledge in informed decision making.
2. Unit will be evaluated on: depth and breadth of concepts, creativity of presentation, balanced treatment of information regarding societal need and environmental issues, clarity and accuracy of expression, and overall excellence in teaching.

Additional Comments:

1. Since the main focus is on energy resources development, teachers who include subjects in this area should receive special consideration.
2. In concert with the 1996 National Science Education Standards, a teacher's use of the inquiry approach in teaching should be given extra consideration.

Cover Sheet
Entrant Information

Print or type all information:

Name _____ School _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Numbers (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail _____

Current position and grades taught _____

Number of years in teaching _____ Other subjects taught _____

University/College _____ Degree and year earned _____

The above information and information contained in this entry is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I understand that \$1,500 of the award will be made to me. I also understand that an additional \$250 will be reimbursed to me upon purchase of earth-science related materials or to help with other costs. A second \$250 can be used to buy supplies for the science department. * The \$500 must be spent before August 31st, 2020 and reimbursement request must be accompanied by a letter from the principal/administrator. If I am selected as a winner, I hereby give my consent to use my name and photograph for publicity purposes.

Signature _____ Date _____

The above information and information contained in this entry is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct and represents the teacher's current assignment. I understand \$1,500 of the award will be made to the teacher. I also understand that an additional \$500 will be reimbursed to the teacher and science department upon purchase of earth-science related materials or to help with field trip costs. * The \$500 must be spent before August 31, 2020 and reimbursement request must be accompanied by a letter from me.

Administrator _____ Position _____ Date _____

Entries must be postmarked by JANUARY 31, 2020.

Attach this form to the top of your entry and mail to:

The Utah Geological Association
Attn: UGA TOTY Award Committee
P.O. Box 520100, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0100

or email it to mdaffolter@graniteschools.org