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

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### Utah Geological Association Call for Teacher Applications

The Utah Geological Association (UGA) is seeking nominations for the Utah Science Teacher of the Year Award.

The UGA awards the winning teacher \$1500 and automatically nominates them for the next-level Rocky Mountain Section AAPG Award (<https://www.aapgrms.org/rms-teacher-of-the-year/>). Winning teachers may also self-nominate for the national-level award, which has an annual deadline of March 31 (<https://foundation.aapg.org/teacher-of-the-year-award-k-12>).

### 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 15, 2025**

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](mailto: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 15, 2025***

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## **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 the applicant. I also understand that an additional \$300 will be reimbursed to the applicant upon purchase of Earth-science related materials or to help with other costs. A second \$300 can be used to buy supplies for the science department. \* The \$600 must be spent before August 31st, 2026 and reimbursement request must be accompanied by a letter from the principal/administrator detailing the expenditure. 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 \$300 will be reimbursed to the teacher upon purchase of Earth-science related materials or to help with other costs. A second \$300 can be used to buy supplies for the science department. \* The \$600 must be spent before August 31, 2026 and reimbursement request must be accompanied by a letter from the principal/administrator detailing the expenditure.***

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**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](mailto:mdaffolter@graniteschools.org)