



Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Application Information

Purpose

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Teacher Award honors a K-12 educator/professional teacher who has created innovative conservation education activities for reaching students.

Eligibility

All teachers in public, parochial and private schools in Minnesota are eligible to be nominated. To be eligible for the contest:

- The Educator must be teaching full-time in the classroom and be personally responsible for developing a conservation education program.
- Teachers who are conservation district officials cannot compete.
- Team teachers are eligible, but awards will only be made to the designated leader.
- Entries that are submitted and do not win a state award may be resubmitted the following year.

Requirements

Any teacher who meets the eligibility requirements may be entered in the contest. Teachers cannot nominate themselves. Applications must be submitted by a Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). To enter the contest, the SWCD should:

- Fill out the entry form on the following page. (Optional: have it signed by the SWCD chairperson.)
- Submit a typewritten narrative which addresses the five items under "Content of Narrative."
- Attach supporting materials, including no more than two letters of recommendation (optional).
- **All materials need to be in 8½ x 11 format.**

Content of Narrative

Narratives must be typewritten on 8½" x 11" paper, and should address the following five items:

1. Teacher's program for involving students in the betterment of natural resources
2. Areas of study incorporated into the conservation education program, including involvement of the SWCD
3. Any assistance received from community organizations or resource specialists from local, state or federal agencies or organizations
4. Ways the program is being extended to other grades, other areas and to people in the community
5. Ways the students have applied their knowledge of natural resource conservation to individuals, groups, schools and community projects

Judging Criteria

Applications will be judged by the MASWCD Awards Committee. The committee's decisions are final. Judging is based on data provided in response to items under "Content of Narrative" and supporting materials. All materials should support the following question:

- How has the teacher shown concern and originality in incorporating the **SWCD** and natural resource conservation into his or her curricula?

Applications that effectively highlight extensive cooperation between the nominee and the SWCD, and the utilization of SWCD services and programs by the nominee, will be given greater consideration.

Deadline – **SEPTEMBER 4**

Nominations must be received by **September 4** via email in Microsoft Word or pdf format to: sheila.vanney@maswcd.org.

Recognition

The winner and nominating district will be notified in writing following the MASWCD Awards Committee meeting. The winning teacher will be recognized at the MASWCD Annual Convention in December.



MASWCD

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Deadline – **SEPTEMBER 4**

Nominating SWCD: _____

Teacher Information:

Name of teacher	
Name of school	
School's mailing address, city, state, zip	
Department and grade level	
Approximate number of students currently enrolled in the school	
Budget allocated to the conservation education program by the school	
Subject taught by the teacher	
Teacher's home address, city, state, zip	
Teacher's home and school phone numbers	
Is the nominee willing to be featured on MASWCD's social media pages?	

PLEASE NOTE: Greater consideration will be given to applications that effectively highlight extensive cooperation between the nominee and the SWCD, and the utilization of SWCD services and programs by the nominee.

Narrative describing how the teacher has shown concern and originality in incorporating the SWCD and natural resource conservation into his or her curricula.

Please provide information below or attached which addresses the following five items:

1. teacher's program for involving students in the betterment of natural resources;
2. areas of study incorporated into the conservation education program, **including involvement of the SWCD**;
3. any assistance received from community organizations or resource specialists from local, state or federal agencies or organizations;
4. ways the program is being extended to other grades, other areas and to people in the community; and
5. ways the students have applied their knowledge of natural resource conservation to individuals, groups, schools and community projects.

All nominations must be received by **September 4** via email in Microsoft Word or pdf format to: sheila.vanney@maswcd.org.