

2016 BLM “Excellence in Interpretation or Education” Awards Nomination Criteria and Process

PURPOSE OF THE AWARDS: The Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) “Excellence in Interpretation or Education” Award was created to recognize and reward outstanding contributions to interpretation and education efforts in the BLM.

ELIGIBILITY: Any BLM employee involved in interpretation and/or education efforts for the public is eligible. Emphasis should be placed on a significant effort beyond normal day-to-day operations.

Please note that the nominee’s program, project, or product:

- Must have been **completed** within 2015, but may involve a multi-year project; and
- Must have been part of the employee’s official duties, rather than a personal project not sanctioned by the BLM.

Nominations are judged on the information provided to the Selection Committee. The quality, completeness, and presentation of the submission are EXTREMELY IMPORTANT! Choose the type of nomination, either interpretation or education. Read each criterion very carefully to make sure the nominee meets all the requirements. Number and address each criterion separately in the justification. Please explain in detail why the nominee is deserving of the award.

Nominations should clearly state the nominee’s category (interpretation or education.) One nominee will be selected from each category. In the case that there are no nominations for a particular category, two nominees will be selected from the other category. Staff may not be nominated for more than one category.

INTERPRETATION CRITERIA

Please address how the nominee’s program, product, or project demonstrated:

- Creativity and originality;
- The relationship to the site’s interpretive themes;
- Created an opportunity for members of the public to form their own connections with public land resources;
- An increase in the audience’s knowledge and understanding of stewardship, resource protection, and land management concepts;
- The ability to help the BLM accomplish its goals and objectives;
- Audience diversity and accessibility, (accessibility should have been an integral part of the program, product, or project, not an afterthought);
- The support and involvement of partner organizations and the community.

EDUCATION CRITERIA

Please address how the nominee's program, product, or project demonstrated:

- Creativity and originality;
- Sustainable, high-quality educational programming that used relevant educational standards or supported local curricula;
- Enhanced the public's environmental and/or heritage literacy
- An increase in the audience's knowledge and understanding of stewardship, resource protection, and land management concepts;
- The ability to help the BLM accomplish its goals and objectives;
- Audience diversity and accessibility, (accessibility should have been an integral part of the program, product, or project, not an afterthought);
- The support and involvement of partner organizations and the community.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Note: All nominations must be approved by a BLM manager. The cover memo accompanying the nomination packet should reflect this management approval.

Nominations should be submitted, preferably via email to Brianna Candelaria, National Lead for Interpretation (bcandela@blm.gov) by September 30, 2016.

If email is not available, nominations should be sent *by FedEx only* to: Brianna Candelaria, Bureau of Land Management, 20 M Street, SE, Suite 2134, Washington, D.C. 20003.

CONTENTS OF NOMINATION PACKAGE

Each nomination package must include the following:

- Nominee's name, address, phone number(s), and email address;
- Nominator's name, address, phone number(s), and email address;
- Name, office address, phone number(s), and email address of nominee's supervisor;
- Support documents from partner organizations and/or the community;
- Narrative about the nominee's contributions to interpretation or education in 2015; **the narrative should number and address each criterion separately in the justification.**

SELECTION PROCESS

Please note that all nominees will be evaluated within the category for which they are nominated.

A selection committee consisting of one or more BLM Washington Office employees, one BLM field employee (or an employee with field experience), and one or more representatives from external organizations will convene to evaluate award nominees.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The winning BLM employees will be honored at the National Association for Interpretation's National Workshop, November 8-12, 2016, in Corpus Christi, Texas, where the Director or his representative will present the awards. Additional details will be provided to winners and their BLM contacts well in advance.