NSTA Distinguished Informal Science Education Award

Program Summary
This award honors NSTA members who have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of science education in an informal or nontraditional school setting, such as a science-technology center, museum, or community science center. The number of awards given each year is at the Awards and Recognition Committee's discretion.

Award
The award consists of three nights’ hotel accommodation and $500 toward expenses to attend the NSTA National Conference on Science Education. Awardees will be honored at the Awards Banquet held during the NSTA conference.

Eligibility
This award is open to NSTA members who are not classroom teachers and who have demonstrated their dedication to informal science education.

Criteria for Judging
Excellence of contribution is the main criterion for selection of the recipients. Among the types of outstanding services in informal science education that are considered by the committee are
- unique or extraordinary accomplishments in informal science education;
- active leadership in informal science education;
- noteworthy scholarly contributions to informal science education;
- focus of public attention on the need for improvement of informal science education;
- direct and substantial contributions to the improvement of informal science education;
- contributions over a significant period of time; and
- overall excellence of contributions.

Award Submission Requirements
It is the nominator's responsibility to assemble an entry packet that must include
- a completed official application form;
- an abstract, not to exceed 250 words, of the nominee's accomplishments;
- a five-page, double-spaced narrative describing the outstanding nature of the nominee's distinguished service to informal science education. The font is a standard 12-point size or larger;
- a professional vita, maximum three pages long;
- three letters of support from individuals and groups who are familiar with the applicant's work. Letters should not exceed three pages each and must accompany packet. Letters sent separately will not be considered. When possible, use letterhead. Make sure letters are signed and dated accordingly. Letters should be written for and refer to applicant's strengths, accomplishments, and the highlights of his or her teaching or administration methods and experiences that directly connect to the application;
- the completed NSTA Awards and Recognitions Committee Suggestions and Checklist;
- label each section and number each page.

Upon receipt, applications become the property of NSTA. Applications will not be returned to applicants. Late or faxed applications will not be accepted. All material must be in one email. Completed applications must be received by November 30.
NSTA Distinguished Informal Science Education Award

Name _________________________________________________________ NSTA Membership # __________________

Title/Affiliation _______________________________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________________________________________ State ______________ Zip ______________

Telephone (____)__________________ FA X (____)__________________ E-mail ___________________________________________________

Have you ever received an NSTA Award? _____ If so, list year and award received. ______________________________

Nominator’s Name _______________________________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________________________________________ State ______________ Zip ______________

Telephone (____)__________________ FA X (____)__________________ E-mail ___________________________________________________

Send your original application and supporting materials to awards@nsta.org

Upon receipt, applications become the property of NSTA. Applications will not be returned to applicants. Late or faxed applications will not be accepted. All material must be sent in one email. Completed applications must be received by November 30.

Questions? Please visit our website at www.nsta.org/distinguishedinformal or e-mail awards@nsta.org.
Occasionally we receive entries that are incomplete or in which the applicant did not follow the specified guidelines. Entries that do not follow the stated rules for submission are disqualified, regardless of the merit or innovation of the entry. Make sure you and a colleague review the checklist below before sending in your application so you can ensure that your efforts will not be disqualified. Ensure that your application communicates the information you intend. Don’t forget to check for correct spelling. All written components should be typed and double spaced, on standard 8-1/2” x 11” white paper, with 1” margins. The font is a standard 12-point size or larger. If you have questions regarding your application, please e-mail awards@nsta.org.

Complete the list and attach it to your application. Each entry includes

- A completed and signed application form;
- Abstract not exceeding 250 words;
- Narrative not exceeding five pages;
- Professional vita not exceeding three pages;
- 3 letters of support;
- Application is bound together with a heavy-duty staple or binder clip (no presentation binders); and
- Label each section and number each page.

Please be advised that you may apply for more than one award; however, you are eligible to win only one NSTA award per year. Each application must be based on a unique program and process. Submission of the same idea and materials to different NSTA award programs will result in the disqualification of all applications. If your idea or project has received an NSTA award in the past, that idea or project is not eligible to receive an additional award.

If you are selected to receive an award, NSTA must request and receive your social security number to issue a 1099 form to you. If your program is currently grant funded, confirm that you, as an individual, are eligible to receive a cash award. Your application will not be returned and becomes the property of NSTA. If you have received an award for this project from another provider, you must notify NSTA.

If your application is selected to receive an award, NSTA reserves the right to reproduce information/photos/other content in promotional materials and on the NSTA website. By submitting materials that contain images of students and other individuals, you assume complete responsibility for obtaining appropriate release consent forms and permission to transfer these materials to NSTA.
**NSTA AWARDS – 2014-15**  
**Distinguished Informal Science Education Award**  
**Official Scoring Guide**

Name: ____________________________  
City/State: _________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Superior</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Completed application with signature.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>X 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unique or extraordinary accomplishments in informal science education</td>
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<td>Active leadership in informal science education</td>
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<td>Noteworthy scholarly contributions to informal science education</td>
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<td>Focusing of public attention on the need for improvement of informal science education</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Contributions over a significant period of time</td>
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<td>Overall excellence of contributions</td>
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<td>ENTRY PACKET (assembled by nominator)</td>
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<td>250 word abstract narrative (description, specific examples, limit 5 double-spaced pages)</td>
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<td>vitae (limit 3 pages)</td>
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**Total**

Comments:  
________________________________________________________________________  
________________________________________________________________________  
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Judge: ____________________________  
Date: ____________________________