

The 2016 National River Heroes Award
Celebrating Rivers and Those Who Protect Them

Background

All too frequently, individuals and groups involved with natural resource conservation fail to celebrate their hard-won successes. Too often, important victories are allowed to be overshadowed by the next issue or threat. Challenges always lie ahead, but we need to take time each year to celebrate our achievements and the people who make them possible. To weave a celebratory thread throughout the watershed community, in 2001, River Network created:

The River Heroes Award

Eligibility

Open to any individual (board member, staff or volunteer) who has successfully worked with a river conservation organization to improve a river and its watershed or who over the years has made a consistent and substantial contribution to the growth and sustainability of the organization. River Network employees and board members are not eligible to submit nominations or be nominated.

Criteria

The River Heroes Award will recognize individuals in the watershed movement who:

- Provide leadership
- Inspire the work of others
- Utilize innovative strategies and techniques to achieve significant results
- Foster the growth and sustainability of a watershed community.
- Are able to give short acceptance speeches!

Application Process/Deadline

To nominate yourself or another individual, please submit one completed PDF of the NOMINATION FORM (see next page), NOMINATION LETTER and 3 LETTERS OF SUPPORT via email to Lexi Meek, lmeek@rivernetwork.org, by Friday, February 5, 2016. Please do not send any materials not requested on the nomination form as they will not be used in the decision-making process. *Please do not fax materials (as they generally don't copy well).*

Review Process

A panel representative of the watershed community, including River Network staff, board and Members will make final decisions, selecting up to five individuals to receive the honor.

Awards

Award recipients will be honored during a celebratory banquet at River Network's National River Rally (May 20-23, 2016 | Mobile, Alabama). Honorees will receive a scholarship to attend the River Rally (event registration, lodging, and domestic travel), a plaque of commendation, acknowledgement on River Network's web page and in River Network publications, a 1-year River Network Membership and additional gifts from River Network.

Note

While River Network understands and appreciates the inspirational work done by couples, trios, teams, committees, entire organizations and groups of organizations; this award is specifically designed to honor individuals. Please limit your nomination to one person.

Questions

For questions regarding the National River Hero Award, please contact Lexi Meek: 503.542.8383 or lmeek@rivernetwork.org.

River Network
2016 National River Heroes Award Nomination Form



river
NETWORK
connecting people
saving rivers

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Date:

Nominator's Name:

Nominator's Title:

Organization/Affiliation:

Street Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip:

Office phone:

Home/Cell phone:

Email:

- May we share the letters of support with your nominee? Yes No
- If your nominee is selected to be honored at the National River Rally, who would you suggest present this person the award at the Heroes Banquet? The presenter should be someone attending the River Rally who is familiar with the Hero and able/willing to give a short speech. River Network staff are not eligible to make award presentations.

Name & contact information for presenter:

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Nominee's Name:

Nominee's Title:

Organization/Affiliation:

Street Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip:

Office phone:

Home/Cell phone:

Email:

- **At-A-Glance:**
Please *briefly* list up to 3 succinct, compelling reasons/accomplishments by the nominee that merit receiving this award:

1.

2.

3.

Requested Application Materials

A completed application consists of 3 parts:

- ✓ Nomination Form (see above)
- ✓ Nomination Letter. No more than four pages describing:
 - *Background Information:* Introduce your nominee, including a relevant and brief bio that could be used in promotional materials.
 - *General Information:* Describe the river/watershed of interest (e.g., size; type; water uses/users; unique features/interesting facts; etc.).
 - *Accomplishments:* The event(s), program(s) or project(s) for which the nominee deserves recognition, including the measurable/tangible results and relevance to criteria. Please be specific; **bulleted lists** are especially welcome.
 - *Big Picture:* The overall contribution the nominee has made to river conservation movement.
- ✓ Three (3) Letters of support
The top of each letter must clearly identify the name of the nominee. Each letter should also provide the supporter's contact information and their relationship to the nominee and specifically address the ways in which the nominee meets the River Heroes criteria. The letters of support should be representative of the community at-large. Letters of support should not be emailed separately; the letters should be included as part of the nomination packet submitted to River Network.