



## The 2017 National River Heroes Award *Nomination Guidelines*

### Eligibility

Open to any individual (board member, staff member, 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 to 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!
- Please 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.*

### Application Deadline

To nominate yourself or another individual, please submit the application materials (listed below) via the online form by Friday, January 20, 2017. Please **do not** send any materials outside of those listed on the nomination form as they will not be used in the decision-making process.

### Required Application Materials

A completed application consists of 3 parts:

- 1) A completed nomination form. The online nomination form will be available starting in mid-November, 2016.
- 2) A nomination Letter, to be submitted as an attachment to the nomination form. No more than four (4) 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.
  - The 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.
- 3) Three (3) Letters of support, to be submitted as attachments to the nomination form.
  - 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 be included attachments to the nomination form.

**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 annual River Rally (River Rally 2017 will take place May 8-10, 2017 in Grand Rapids, Michigan). Honorees will receive a special scholarship to attend River Rally 2017 (covering event registration, lodging, and domestic travel), a plaque of commendation, acknowledgement on River Network's web page and in River Network publications, and a 1-year River Network Membership.

**Questions**

For questions regarding the 2017 River Heroes Award, please contact Victoria Yu at 720.930.4914 or [vyu@rivernetwork.org](mailto:vyu@rivernetwork.org).