



2019 National River Heroes Awards

Nomination Guidelines

Eligibility

Each year, up to five individuals¹ are selected as River Heroes and honored at River Rally. Each of the awardees stand out due to their significant and extraordinary work related to place-based river conservation and / or water advocacy, on key issues² fundamental to solving today's water crisis, and expanding our understanding of the evolving social context of water. River Network employees and board members are not eligible to submit nominations or to be nominated.

Criteria

The River Heroes Award will recognize individuals working for healthy rivers and clean water who:

- Go "above & beyond" the call of duty regarding place-based river conservation and / or water advocacy and expanding our understanding of the evolving social context of water
- Bring people together to solve water problems related to the key issues
- Seek solutions that are inclusive and equitable
- Inspire and help others to make a difference
- Are able to give short acceptance speeches!

Application Deadline

To nominate an individual, please submit the application materials (listed below) via the online form by **November 10, 2018**. 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

- 1) A completed online nomination form

Please submit the following as one combined PDF document, ideally uploaded via the online nomination form noted above:

- 2) Your letter of nomination, which should cover:
 - *Background Information:* Introduce your nominee, including a relevant and brief bio that could be used in promotional materials.
 - *Contextual Information:* Describe the river/watershed of interest (e.g., size; type; water uses/users; unique features/interesting facts; etc.) or the water issue that most demonstrates their leadership, and the communities involved in your nominee's water work.
 - *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. Be sure to mention the overarching contribution the nominee has made to healthy rivers and water.

¹ 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.

² Healthy rivers in agricultural landscapes; safe, clean, affordable drinking water; resilient cities and communities; and robust and effective water laws and policies

- *River Hero Award Qualifications*: Specifically address the ways in which the nominee meets the River Heroes criteria above.
- 3) Three (3) letters of support from members of the community.
- Each letter should 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. Letters of support should be representative of the community at-large and might come from members of congress, local decision makers, key community partners, etc.

Review Process

Each year's River Hero selection committee includes individuals representing the water protection and river conservation community, River Heroes from previous years, and River Network staff and board members.

Awards

Award recipients will be honored at a celebratory reception during River Network's annual River Rally. River Rally 2019 will take place June 21-24, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio. The celebratory reception will occur at 6pm on Saturday, June 22. Honorees will receive a special scholarship to attend River Rally 2019 (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 premium level River Network Membership.

Questions

For questions regarding the 2019 River Heroes Award, please contact Carly Schmidt at 720.930.4914 or cschmidt@rivernetwork.org.