

*Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts*

**Award for Excellence in Soil and Water Education**

***OHIO TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM***

**Purpose:** The purpose of this award is to recognize the outstanding soil and water conservation education efforts of Ohio's classroom teachers.

**Eligibility:** Elementary (grades K-6) and secondary (grades 7-12) teachers will be recognized in separate categories. All teachers in public, parochial, and private schools in Ohio are eligible to participate in the program according to the following criteria:

- Educators must be actively teaching full time in the classroom and be personally responsible for developing a conservation education program.
- A candidate's nomination must be endorsed by the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in the county in which s/he is teaching.
- SWCD supervisors are not eligible, but associate supervisors may compete.
- Team entries are eligible, but awards will be made only to the designated team leader.
- Educators who have won an Ohio Teacher of the Year award in the past five years are not eligible to compete.



**Application:** Nominations are made by the SWCD and should include a completed nomination form and a brief description (500 words or less) of your nominee's conservation education program. Up to four photographs may be included. Only one entry in each of the categories (elementary and secondary) may be sent from each SWCD. ***This program is designed to coincide with the SWCD annual meetings, so that teachers honored at your annual banquet could easily be nominated in the Ohio Teacher of the Year program.***

**Judging:** Entries will be judged by the OFSWCD Education and Communications Committee. Special consideration will be given to entries that describe how an educator has:

- Made a significant contribution to conservation education in their school or community,
- Involved their students in the betterment of natural resources,
- Extended their program to reach other grades or people in the community.

**Awards:** The winning applicants in each category (elementary and secondary) will receive:

- A \$300 cash award and plaque, which will be presented at the OFSWCD Annual Meeting held in February, 2013.

**Judging Deadline:** Entries must be in the possession of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation no later than November 30, 2012. Send to:

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