



2026 Awards and Recognition Program

John Parris Partnership Award

Table of Contents:

- Selection Guidelines
- Cover Sheet
- John Parris Partnership Award Application

Selection Guidelines:

- Past award winners may not reenter for a period of five (5) years after receiving an award. Commissioners are not eligible for Teacher of the Year Awards. Associate Commissioners are eligible for Teacher of the Year Awards.
- Regional Nomination forms must be received by SCACD no later than Tuesday, June 30, 2026, to be considered. If mailing nominations, please mail at least one week in advance to ensure receipt by the deadline. SCACD is NOT able to accept entries received after Tuesday, June 30, 2026.
- If, in the judgement of the judging panel of the Awards Committee, there is no nomination at hand that meets the criteria for a SCACD award, no award will be given.
- You MUST include a Cover Sheet with each nomination that includes the following detail: Award Category, Nominee's Name, Nominator, Date Submitted.
- Electronic files will be accepted as supplemental materials to the application. They will not be accepted in lieu of an application. Electronic files may include: newsletters, scanned letters of recommendation, photo files, Word documents, etc. Please do not submit more than 2 pages of electronic files per application.
- If submitting a nomination electronically, please consolidate all files into one PDF for each nomination.
- Please email your completed nomination to awards@scacd.org or mail a hard copy to SCACD, 5 Geology Rd. Columbia, SC 29212.
- Guidelines for each award must be strictly adhered to in order to be considered for the award.

Judging Panel of the Awards Committee:

The judging panel for the 2026 SCACD Regional Awards will be comprised of Area District Commissioners (up to 4), the SCDNR Conservation Districts Area Coordinator, the SCACD Area Representative, an NRCS Regions Representative (volunteer), and one Area District employee (volunteer).

Area Award winners will be submitted for statewide awards. Statewide winners will be nominees for National awards.



2026 Awards and Recognition Cover Sheet

Award Category:

Nominee's Name:

Nominated By:

Date Submitted:



2026 John Parris Partnership Award

The John Parris Partnership Award recognizes an individual who has advanced natural resource conservation in the state of South Carolina through tangible programs. This award honors the efforts and dedication that John Parris contributed to conservation districts. The recipient embodies his legacy by demonstrating effective communication and leadership within South Carolina's conservation partnership.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates partnership (as an individual, business, organization) to South Carolina's conservation communities.
- Supports South Carolina's conservation mission of protecting the natural resources of the State.
- Involvement in programs related to both private and public conservation efforts and is supportive of their local conservation district.

Nominations Must Include:

- General information about the nominee.
- Picture of the nominee.
- A letter of recommendation that includes the following: a summary of their contributions and/or leadership roles and an acknowledgement of an outstanding achievement in conservation that demonstrates how the nominee has strengthened relationships or provided services / contributions to the conservation districts on a local, state or national level.

Candidate's Name: _____

Title / Position (if applicable): _____

Organization / Employer (if applicable): _____

District or Group Submitting Nomination: _____

Nominator's relationship to Candidate: _____

Nominator's Contact Information: _____

Candidate's Address, City, State, Zip: _____

Candidate's Cell Phone: _____

Demonstrated partnership with South Carolina's conservation community: Please describe how the nominee has partnered to support and advance conservation initiatives throughout the state.

Support for SC's mission to protect our natural resources: Explain how the nominee supports South Carolina's conservation mission of protecting the state's natural resources through leadership, advocacy or program implementation.

Impact and Engagement: Provide examples of the nominee's participation in or support of programs that involve private and public sector conservation efforts, and their engagement with their local conservation district.

Please send your completed applications to awards@scacd.org. You may include up to two pages of supporting documents (photos, newspaper articles, etc.) in addition to this application, the letter of recommendation and photo.