



2026 Awards and Recognition Program

SCACD Young Professional Award

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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 SCACD Young Professional Award

The SCACD Young Professional Award honors an individual between the ages of 18 and 45 who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to conservation in South Carolina, ensuring lasting benefits for future generations. This early career conservationist has shown initiative in addressing conservation needs at the district, state and national level.

Criteria:

- An individual partner of the South Carolina conservation community who has gone above and beyond for conservation efforts.
- Outstanding leadership in the profession.
- Between ages of 18-45 at the close of nominations.
- Made significant strides towards conservation practices.
- Ensuring and encouraging a stronger future for conservation in SC.

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 (ex. Technical, administrative, or local district) and an explanation of their efforts contributing to future conservation.

Candidate's Name: _____

Candidate's Age (Must be between 18-45): _____

Organization / Employer (if applicable): _____

Title / Role: _____

District or Group Submitting Nomination: _____

Nominator's relationship to Nominee: _____

Nominator's Contact Information: _____

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

Candidate's Cell Phone: _____

Conservation Commitment: Please describe how the nominee has gone above and beyond in their efforts to support conservation in South Carolina. Provide specific examples of projects, initiatives, or partnerships.

Leadership: In what ways has the nominee demonstrated outstanding leadership within the conservation profession?

Impact and Innovation: How has the nominee made significant strides in advancing conservation practices? Highlight any innovative or impactful approaches.

Future-Focused Contributions: How has the nominee worked to ensure and encourage a stronger future for conservation in South Carolina?

Broader Influence: Has the nominee contributed to conservation efforts beyond the local level (e.g. state or national initiatives)? If so, please provide details.

Additional Comments: is there anything else you would like the selection committee to know about this nominee?

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.