**NOMINATION FORM:**

**2023 REFUGE ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**

**The deadline for submission is Friday, March 17, 2023.**

Each year when the nominations are reviewed, we are always impressed that the National Wildlife Refuge System seems to bring out the best in everyone! The things that people do for Refuges all over the country are incredible and we appreciate the time that you are taking to tell others what your nominee has done to deserve an award.  Our reviewers have a tough job of selecting the top one in each category and that is always hard! That makes your job as a nominator critical to making sure that your nominee gets all the credit that they deserve.

We have found that many of the best-written nominations are group efforts, where several people work together on the application. Not only does this spread out the workload, but it also helps ensure that all the nominee’s accomplishments get included. Metrics are always helpful as well. We know that this will help your nomination. Just be certain that the same project/activity isn’t duplicated throughout the nomination form.

**Electronic nominations are required.**

Include any additional information that you feel would be helpful to the selection committee in their review of the specific evaluation categories.  Photos are okay but entire newsletters and brochures are discouraged. Endorsement letters that repeat material already covered without adding substance to the nomination are also discouraged.

To submit your nomination, please email the completed form to Debbie Harwood at dharwood@refugeassociation.org. You will receive email confirmation that your nomination has been received.

Questions? Email Debbie Harwood

**NOMINATION FORM:**

**2023 Refuge Advocate Award**

**The deadline for submission is Friday, March 17, 2023.**

This award recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in support of the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System by people or groups other than USFWS employees or Friends Groups, although individual members of Friends groups are eligible. The award will be presented to a person or group who are judged by their extraordinary accomplishments to be the most outstanding of the candidates nominated based on the accomplishments and attributes in the evaluation categories outlined on the next page.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nominee or Nominees: |  |
| Nominee’s Mailing Address: |  |
| Nominee’s Telephone Number: |  |
| Nominee’s Email address: |  |
| Refuge: |  |
| Refuge Mailing Address: |  |
| Refuge Telephone Number: |  |
| Refuge Manager: |  |
| Refuge Manager’s Email Address: |  |
| **Nominated By** |  |
| Name: |  |
| Title/Relationship to Nominee: |  |
| Mailing Address: |  |
| Email Address: |  |
| Telephone Number: |  |
| Date: |  |
| **Reviewed by Regional Refuge Chief (REQUIRED)** |  |
| Name: |  |
| Title: |  |
| Mailing Address: |  |
| Email Address: |  |
| Telephone Number: |  |
| Date: |  |

Please describe the accomplishments and attributes of the nominee in each of the following evaluation categories.

**Electronic nominations are required.**

***Nominations that do not follow the outline below will be returned.***

Innovation and Excellence in:

1. Advancing the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System by
2. Providing substantial advocacy support for a refuge, or the entire NWRS, during a critical period when all or part of its mission was under threat.
3. Using innovative methods to rally public support.
4. Building trust in and support of the refuge and/or the NWRS by collaborating and developing strong connections with the public, decisionmakers and influencers to alleviate the threat.
5. Achieving, or substantially achieving, reduction or elimination of the threat.

 2. Maintaining a relationship of cooperation and mutual respect with Refuge personnel.