Teaching Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA)

Teachers can have a tremendous impact on students’ understanding of how the natural world works, their awareness of the patterns that connect human activity to nature, and their knowledge, values, and skills to conserve the environment for the future. The Teaching Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA) is given by KCEEN to recognize outstanding efforts in environmental education in the Greater Kansas City region.

Who is eligible to apply?
Pre-K through 12th grade teachers may apply or be nominated. Non-formal environmental educators such as agency, non-profit and government staff are not eligible.

Why apply?
Teachers who effectively educate their students about the most important subject of the 21st century – environmental stewardship – deserve special recognition. Not only do their efforts positively affect their students and school, but they also serve to encourage and inspire others to teach environmental stewardship, and help to raise the profile of sustainable schools and environmental issues in the greater community.

Application process
- The nominee or person with knowledge of nominee’s qualifications may complete the application (attached).
- Nominators are encouraged to communicate with the nominee to help ensure completeness and accuracy of the application.
- Send the application to Matt Riggs, mriggs@marc.org, by Nov. 8, 2019.
- Questions? Contact Matt, (816) 701-8313

What are the qualifications?
A TESA teacher:
- Must teach in a formal classroom or home school program.
- Must teach within the Greater Kansas City metro area: Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri; and Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte counties in Kansas.
- Has two or more years of work in environmental stewardship / education / awareness / sustainability.
- Develops exemplary lesson plans and projects.
- Provides lessons and projects designed to promote critical thinking and responsible decision making.
- Provides real-world, hands-on learning opportunities outside the textbook and classroom.
- Strives to increase student awareness and understanding of the social, economic and environmental components of sustainability in the real world.
- Works to integrate environmental stewardship across school subjects and / or grade levels.
- Connects projects to the larger community and students’ homes.
- Strives to be a leader in environmental stewardship and providing services to the profession (attends and participates in conferences and workshops, is involved with outside programs and organizations, etc.).
What do I include in my written application?
- See attached application.
- Please be as concise as possible!

How will I find out who won the award?
- The KCEEN Planning Committee will choose the TESA winner.
- The winner will be notified by phone and invited to accept the award at the MARC Solid Waste Management District annual meeting to be held at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Dec. 11, 2019.
- If the winner was nominated by someone other than themselves, the nominator will be invited to attend the ceremony and present the award to the winner. Otherwise another appropriate person will be selected to present the award such as the nominee’s student(s), past year’s winner, etc.
- If the winner cannot attend, they will be asked to send someone who can accept the award on their behalf.
- The winner will be given the opportunity to speak briefly upon receiving the award.
- Other nominees will be notified via email and be encouraged to apply again the following year.

What does the nominee get if they win?
The winner will receive:
- Plaque
- Resources and technical assistance from KCEEN members

For more information, contact Matt Riggs, mriggs@marc.org (816) 701-8313.

The application is attached below.
# Teaching Environmental Stewardship Award Application Form

Teacher name:

School & District:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Teaching assignment:

Grade/subject level:

Number of years teaching environmental stewardship:

Principal’s name:

Principal’s email:

Principal’s phone:

Nominator name (if different from above):

Relationship to nominee:

Email:

Phone number:

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<th><strong>Describe the teacher’s effective teaching strategies and projects. Include use of technology and diversity of efforts (multiple topics or projects) at school or beyond school grounds.</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Describe the effect of the teacher’s efforts, measured by number of students, fellow teachers, parents and administrators directly affected by teacher’s work and visible differences in the school and community.</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Describe how the teacher has integrated environmental stewardship across school subjects and / or grade levels.</strong></th>
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Describe how the teacher’s efforts have changed or increased over time.

If the teacher is involved with external environmental stewardship efforts, please describe. Examples: giving presentations at conferences, having students present to elected officials, working with environmental or community groups, etc.

What is the teacher’s dream in terms of providing environmental stewardship opportunities for their students?

Anything else you want to include?

Please send completed application to Matt Riggs, mriggs@marc.org, by Nov. 8, 2019.