



*National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization
2012 Ag Advocate Award*

WHAT IS AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM?

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) encourages K-12 educators to integrate information about the food and agricultural system across their curriculums to assist students in understanding the pivotal role of agriculture in the U.S. and world economy. The program also strives to introduce students to environmental and social issues impacting agriculture, and to expose them to higher education and career opportunities in the food and agricultural sciences.

WHAT IS THE AG ADVOCATE AWARD AND WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The Ag Advocate Award recognizes a non-paid volunteer who gives freely of his or her time promoting agricultural literacy and who uses creative approaches to teach students about the importance of agriculture while the mission of their state AITC program. The winner will receive a \$500.00 honorarium and up to \$1,500.00 approved expenses to attend the National AITC Conference, where he or she will be recognized at an awards ceremony. States can only submit one nominee each year. Only states in good standing (National AITC Organization dues paid and state report filed) are eligible to nominate a volunteer for this award. The State Contact is not eligible for this award.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION?

Volunteers will utilize agricultural information and /or materials with their activity/program/project in an effort to promote agricultural literacy and the importance of agriculture. Activities may include, but are not limited to, an understanding of agriculture's impact on personal lives, our national heritage, the environment and economy. Innovative and interdisciplinary program are encouraged.

HOW ARE NOMINATIONS EVALUATED?

All nominations will be evaluated by a panel of judges familiar with agriculture, education and Agriculture in the Classroom. The National AITC Organization Committee will appoint four judges (one from each region) to evaluate the applications. Note: AITC State Contacts who submit nominations may not serve as judges.

Evaluation Criteria (evaluated on a 100 point scale with each category being worth 25 points)
Created and Utilized Agricultural Information – Developed a presentation or activity that effectively increased Agriculture Literacy and teach students about the importance of agriculture. Organized groups of volunteers and combined efforts with other groups, etc.

Student Impact - The number of students and/or teachers that were impacted by this presentation/activity.

Program/activity - The degree that these programs support their state AITC mission and use of AITC materials and resources.

Duration -The number of years involved in agriculture literacy and promoting the importance of agriculture to students/teachers.

HOW ARE NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED?

Nominations must be submitted by the AITC State Contact. Nomination packets should include a complete nomination form and a letter of support from the State Contact. Nominations are to be submitted to the National AITC Organization office with a postmark no later than **March 15**



*National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization
2012 Ag Advocate Award
Nomination Form*

1. I do hereby nominate _____ for the 2012 National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization Ag Advocate Award.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone() _____ E-mail _____

2. Name of State Contact _____

State _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

3. Attached is a testimony (up to 3 pages, double-spaced, no less than 11 pt. font) detailing the nominee's contributions to help promote agricultural literacy.

Please submit all nominations postmarked no later than March 15, 2012 to:

National AITC Organization
Rick Waitley, Executive Director
55 SW 5th Ave. #100
Meridian, ID 83642
Fax: 208-888-4586
Email: cindy@amgidaho.com

Signed _____ Date _____