

THE SHELL SCIENCE TEACHING AWARD

PROGRAM SUMMARY

A partnership between Shell Oil Company and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), this award recognizes one outstanding classroom teacher (grades K–12) who has had a positive impact on his or her students, school, and the community through exemplary science teaching. Special projects may be mentioned but should not be the main focus of the candidate's application.

AWARD

The Shell Science Teaching Award recipient will receive \$10,000. The recipient and the two finalists will each receive an all-expense-paid trip to attend the NSTA National Conference on Science Education. During the conference, they will be honored at the Awards Banquet. The recipient will also be recognized at the Teacher Awards Banquet. The 10 semifinalists will receive certificates of distinction.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees must be classroom teachers whose responsibilities include teaching science. Nominees must have a minimum of eight (8) years of experience (not including the current school year) as a teacher of science, and must teach in a private or public school in the United States, U.S. Territories, Department of Defense schools, or in Canada.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The Shell Science Teaching Award Judging Panel will review the nomination packets and select 10 finalists. These individuals will then be asked to provide a YouTube video of no longer than thirty minutes that features classroom activities with students that clearly reflect the candidate's teaching philosophy and application submission. The classroom is defined as indoor or outdoor—wherever the candidate teaches science. The video will be due in mid-January. The Shell Science Teaching Award Judging Panel will review the videos and select three finalists. The committee will then form a subcommittee consisting of three (3) members, who will visit each finalist. Site visits will take place at the candidates' schools in February. The subcommittee will then determine the recipient of the award. An individual may be a finalist **up to three times**, if upon the third time as a finalist they are not selected as the winner, they are no longer eligible.

AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications should reflect NGSS and/or national science education standards and must include the following information in the order presented:

- ★ Safety. Include all elements of safety measures used in your classroom. (maximum length of character equivalent one page).
- ★ Resume (**maximum length of character equivalent of one page**) that details the nominee's teaching experience, professional activities, formal and continuing education, awards and publications, and community involvement. This should not be a narrative;
- ★ Schedule. One week's schedule (i.e., 11 a.m.–12 p.m.: Env. Science, 1–2 p.m.: Special Ed.; 2–3 p.m.: Physical Science, G.T. students), including time and subjects taught. Briefly describe content or thematic base of course and student demographics (character equivalent of one page) narrative format;
- ★ Science Teaching Philosophy (**maximum length of character equivalent of one page**);
- ★ Instructional Method (**maximum length of character equivalent of five pages**). A description of the candidate's classroom activities that represent the nature of science; increase student knowledge and skills and enhance attitudes of science; employ unique methods to make science exciting and relevant; make connections among science, the student's world, and the community; encourage scientific inquiry and problem solving; and impact a wide variety of students, including—but not limited to—those who may be at risk or have different abilities and opportunities. Show a connection between instructional method and the NGSS or national science education standards if necessary;
- ★ Letters of Support. Three letters of support from individuals or groups (**maximum length of letters is two pages each**) should accompany the application. Letters can be single spaced. Letters sent separately will not be considered. Letters must be signed and dated accordingly, on letterhead if possible. Letters for the Shell Award should reflect applicant's strengths, and accomplishments.

Upon receipt, all applications become the property of NSTA. Applications will not be returned. Late or faxed applications will not be accepted. Completed applications must be received by December 15, 2017. Use the on-line submission form at www.nsta.org/awards to complete your application. Any attachments shall be in pdf format. Questions send e-mail to awards@nsta.org.

