Criteria for Lake Michigan Champions of Conservation Awards Program

Geographical Areas

* All activities must take place in the Lake Michigan Basin of Wisconsin

Focus Areas

* Water Resources Protection: Projects that improve or restore degraded reaches of streams or rivers, lakes or wetlands in the Lake Michigan basin, or monitoring programs that can lead to improvements. Management actions that protect and improve the Lake Michigan fishery will also be considered.

* Environmental Education and Outreach: Projects that advance knowledge and understanding of environmental issues, principles and stewardship through innovative communication and education methods.
* Land Use Protection and Habitat Restoration: Focuses on the efforts of individuals or groups developing projects for the restoration and/or protection of unique or endangered regional ecosystems.

**Nomination will contain a brief description (up to two pages) summarizing the activity or program**

* What environmental need(s) within the community or organization did the nominee address?
* What innovative solution did the nominee develop to address the identified need?
* What effect or impact did the nominee have on the environment or community?
* Discuss the potential for sustainability of the project or leadership qualities of the nominee.

Additional Criteria

Water Resource Protection Award & Land Use Protection & Habitat Restoration Award

* Importance and scope of resource protected/enhanced
* Initiatives taken beyond normal workload and job description
* Personal involvement, level, and longevity
* Resource agency involvement
* Community involvement, stakeholder engagement, collaborative planning
* How has site changed? – Has biological diversity and/or density improved?

Environmental Education & Outreach

* Who is the target?
* How is it above and beyond scope and job description?
* Results of outreach? – Were there exceptional student accomplishments or efforts?

Ranking for Individual, Business, Organization, and Policy-Maker Award

* Enter 1 for your first place, enter 2 for your second place, enter 3 for your third place
* Totals: Person with the smallest total is the Champion
* Tie Breaker by Committee: number of first place votes, then number of second place votes