



Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals

2026 ANREP Awards Program

Nomination deadline: Sunday, February 22, 2026

Welcome to the 2026 ANREP Awards program. This program is intended to foster high standards within the membership, recognize significant achievements, and expand the use of high quality, innovative materials and programs by honoring the outstanding members and partners who developed them.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the ANREP awards program, the nominator and nominee(s) must be paid **active**¹ members and in good standing for the year in which the award application is being submitted. There are some exceptions to this requirement for team or multi-author materials, as stated in the description of specific award categories. **Self-nominations are welcome.**

Educational materials and programs must focus on natural resources and/or natural systems (e.g., forest, wildlife, fisheries, water, range, watersheds, climate, human dimensions, recreation resources, etc.). Materials must be original works produced for use in an Extension program, although this requirement does not preclude their use by other organizations.

For judging in 2026, materials and programs must have been produced or received by the intended audience during January 1 to December 31, 2025. If not previously selected for an ANREP award, nominations for **Achievement Awards** may be resubmitted in succeeding years. **Outstanding Educational Materials** nominations may be entered in only one year and cannot be resubmitted unless significant changes have been made to the original product(s). Educational materials may be entered in more than one class if they meet class criteria. The Awards announcement will be completed by March 31, 2026.

¹ Active Members are currently employed by the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) or Sea Grant Extension Program (SGEP) with an appointment and/or responsibilities in natural resources extension (NRE). This includes employees of USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Read instructions carefully

1. Compose your nomination according to the guidelines for each category. Your narrative must include:
 - a. The title of the nomination
 - b. A brief summary (no longer than 125 words). This summary will be the text for winning nomination in the awards booklet.
 - c. A nomination narrative. Think about the judging criteria for each category when developing.
2. The nomination total nomination summary and narrative must be no longer than two pages (12-point type, 1-inch margins), excluding allowable attachments. **Convert your narrative to PDF format before submitting.**
3. Complete your nomination form and upload the narrative and attachments [here](#).
 - a. You must sign in using your ANREP member credentials to access the nomination form. *Your login name is your email address. If you can't remember your password, just click the login button at anrep.org, enter your email address then click the Forgot Password link to get started.*
 - b. Your name, as nominator, will be automatically filled in. Add this information:
 1. Mailing address
 2. Title of the nomination
 3. Name(s) of the nominees
 4. ANREP region of the nominee(s)
 5. Awards category (choose carefully and recheck before submitting)
 6. A short abstract of your nomination (150 words maximum)
 7. Upload your narrative, as described above, then allowable supporting documents.
 - c. Upon completion, the nominator will receive an email confirmation. Nominators can edit their nomination any time before the application deadline.

HELPFUL HINTS

- We cannot add members after awards are finalized, so make sure you list all members.
- Each year we find submissions in the obviously wrong category. These will not be adjusted, so make sure you have the correct category and that your application CLEARLY addresses all the judging categories. If you feel that your nomination could fit in more than one category, please choose the one that you think best fits. The judging criteria are provided after the descriptions of the award categories.

- The awards chair and ANREP executive secretary will be available to answer questions if you have trouble submitting your award nomination. However, if you wait until the very last minute to submit and have a problem, we will try our best to address it, but we cannot guarantee we will be able to by the deadline. For this reason, please plan to submit your nominations early in case there is an issue.
- If you are submitting links to online material be sure that the judges are given only the direct link to what will be judged and that they are given login information if necessary. **Judges will not view online sources that require them to establish an account or new password.** Check that the links work. Feel free to include a hyperlink instead of showing the entire URL.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS AND CRITERIA

There are two major award categories: **Outstanding Educational Materials** awards and **Achievement** awards. To be considered for an award in either category, materials or achievements must be exemplary and worthy of national recognition.

Outstanding Educational Materials Awards

These annual awards recognize outstanding Extension natural resources educational materials in nine classes. Judging will primarily focus on target audience appropriate language, innovative presentation, usefulness of educational materials, and impact.

Any ANREP member may nominate item(s) for an Outstanding Educational Material Award. The materials must have been produced with significant involvement from an active ANREP member (e.g., performed at least one of these functions: overall coordination, technical content, graphics, photography, design and layout, computer programming, authorship or co-authorship, etc.). In the case of a team nomination, the lead author/creator must be identified, then additional co-authors/creators.

Up to three awards may be given in each class, including Gold (first place), Silver (second place), and Bronze (third place). Depending on the number and quality of materials and class, judges may give fewer awards and/or may give lower place awards without giving higher place certificates.

As noted above, materials must have been produced or utilized by the intended audience during the previous calendar year, **January 1 to December 31, 2025.**

Class Descriptions and Submission Requirements - Outstanding Educational Materials

Long Publication

This class includes **single** publications with **seven** or more pages or multiple publications focused on a theme that collectively has **seven** or more pages. Submit one publication (PDF format). Do not submit books or the entire program curriculum.

Short Publication

This class includes **single** publications (including newspaper or magazine articles) with **six** or fewer pages or multiple publications focused on a theme that collectively has **six** or fewer pages. Submit one publication (PDF format).

Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum (online courses or in print)

This class includes books or multiple publications that intentionally focus on a single theme with the intent of aiding in delivering a program. Submit one or more publication(s) (PDF format). Links to online programs are acceptable if login information is included. Judges will not view online sources that require them to establish an account or new password.

Newsletter/Series of Articles/Blogs

This class includes newsletters (including digital/electronic newsletters or blogs) that are distributed to a targeted list of people on a planned schedule at least two times per year or a series of articles published in a newspaper, magazine, or newsletter not controlled by Extension. Submit **3-4** different newsletters or articles from the series. Submit the publication in PDF format, or a link to the publication, article or newsletter. Include a description of the publication name, type, and frequency.

Promotional and Marketing Materials (including social media)

This class includes any materials (e.g., brochure, letter, video, newspaper, radio or television advertisement, magnet, cup, etc.) used to promote an educational event, product, or program. Submit one copy of promotional material. If there are several promotional materials related to the same program or product, submit one copy of each and include an explanation about how this package of materials was used. Submissions may be in PDF format, or link to another online location.

Webinars

This class includes live or pre-recorded webinars. The content of these materials includes formal presentations of educational content or research. Submit the content with a link to access an online version of the program. If there are several webinars in a series, include a link to one program and include a brief content description of the other programs. Include a description of how the program was promoted and its estimated audience size. Include copies (PDF format) or links to any supporting educational materials used by the audience during the program.

TV/Video

This class includes live or recorded broadcast or social media live video or series. Submit one link to the program. If there are several programs in a series, include a video of (or link to) one program and include a brief content description of the other programs. Include a description of how the program was promoted and its estimated audience size. Include copies of (PDF format) or links to of any supporting educational materials used by the audience during the program.

Podcast/Radio

This class includes live or recorded radio broadcasts and podcasts or series. Submit one link to the program or upload the recording. If there are several programs in a series, include a recording of (or link to) one program and include a brief content description of the other programs. Include a description of how the program was promoted and its estimated audience size. Include copies of (PDF format) or links to of any supporting educational materials used by the audience during the program.

Web sites/Apps/Educational Technology

This class includes Web-based educational resources, including Web pages, apps, and educational technology, including those formatted for mobile devices. Submit the link to the Web-based resource. Judges will access the site and evaluate it online. If a password is required, please provide a password or instructions to enter the site. If there is supporting written material necessary for online courses, submit one copy of each item (PDF format) or link.

Judging Criteria - Outstanding Educational Materials

1. Content (25 Points)

Is the content useful to the target audience, correct, well organized, and presented in a logical flow? Is the target audience identified? Is it presented in an innovative way?

2. Editing (25 Points)

Does the written text (or spoken narration, in the case of a webinar or video presentation) include vocabulary, grammar, and sentence length that will be understood easily by the target audience? Are spelling and punctuation correct?

3. Graphics and design (25 Points)

Are graphics (e.g., drawings, charts, photographs) used where appropriate, designed and labeled so their meaning is clear, and of high visual quality? Is the overall layout and design appealing and useful to the audience? Are there layout or design flaws?

4. Evaluation and impact (25 Points)

Are there needs assessments and evaluation results? Do they demonstrate positive reactions and impact? Have evaluations been used to improve the material? Evaluation will be different for each category. Not all questions have to be answered to receive the full 25 points. For example, in the social media category evaluation can include “reach or shares.” Evaluation of a podcast can include the number of times downloaded. Judges will be instructed to address evaluation based on the content of the material.

Achievement Awards

Achievement Awards recognize exceptional ANREP members who exhibit outstanding leadership and program excellence individually and in teams. An Extension program is a set of educational materials and events aimed at **creating impact within** a particular audience over a short or long time period. One award will be presented in each Achievement Award category.

Class descriptions and submission requirements: Achievement Awards

Early Career Leadership

This award recognizes the achievements of an ANREP member with less than **ten** years of Extension service who exhibits outstanding leadership and excellence in planning, designing, delivering, and evaluating Extension natural resources programs.

Judging Criteria

1. Does the nominee exemplify strong leadership skills at the state, regional, national, or international levels that are exemplary for an early-career professional? (25 Points)
2. Does the nominee show outstanding efforts to define issues, identify target audiences, plan and administer educational programs, and use multiple resources and delivery methods? (25 Points)
3. Do the nominee’s programs play an important role in preparing people and/or communities to address critical social, economic and/or environmental issues? (25 Points)
4. Did the nominee evaluate their programs, highlight results and demonstrate significant impacts on people, communities, or natural resources, and implications for future programs? (25 Points)

Distinguished Career Leadership

This award recognizes the achievements of an experienced ANREP member with **ten or more** years of Extension service who exhibits outstanding leadership and excellence in planning, designing, delivering, and evaluating **high-impact** Extension natural resources programs throughout their careers.

Judging criteria

1. Does the nominee exemplify strong leadership skills throughout their career delivering exemplary Extension programs at the state, regional, national, or international levels? (25 Points)
2. Does the nominee play a critical role throughout their career in identifying resources, involving key people, agencies/cooperators, funds, supplies or equipment and identifying appropriate target audience(s)? (25 Points)
3. Throughout their career, has the nominee's programs played an important role in preparing people and/or communities to address critical social, economic and/or environmental issues? (25 Points)
4. Does the nominee evaluate their programs and highlight very significant impacts on people, communities, or natural resources, and implications for future programs? (25 Points)

Innovative Program

This award recognizes an especially innovative Extension natural resources program including a set of educational materials and events aimed at a specified audience to address a particular issue. It recognizes unique, cutting edge, risk-taking programs that succeed in meeting their objectives. If a team, at least one ANREP member must have a significant role in conducting the program.

Judging criteria

1. Does this unique program identify relevant natural resources issue(s), resources (people, agencies/cooperators, funds, supplies or equipment) and appropriate target audiences? (25 Points)
2. Was this program a unique, cutting-edge, risk-taking effort? Judging from the description of the issue being addressed, do the program objectives and educational methods implemented demonstrate a high degree of innovation? (25 Points)
3. Did the nominee evaluate their program and provide highlights of significant impacts on people, communities, or natural resources, and implications for future programs? (25 Points)
4. Is there potential for this program to expand, be replicated, or lead to changes in other programs that would benefit from this innovation? (25 Points)

Outstanding Team

This award recognizes achievements of interdisciplinary, interagency, and/or other teams that exhibit leadership and excellence in planning, designing, delivering, and evaluating a high impact Extension natural resources program. A team must be composed of at least 3 people and not more than 15. At least one ANREP member must be a team member.

Judging criteria

1. Did the team identify critical natural resources issue(s), resources, involvement (people, agencies/cooperators, funds, supplies or equipment), and target audience? (25 Points)
2. How well was the program planned and administered by the team to address critical issues? (25 Points)
3. How successful were the delivery methods and educational materials used by the team to launch this program? (25 Points)
4. How well did the team evaluate the program and highlight significant impacts on people, communities, or natural resources, and provide implications for future programs? (25 Points)

Excellence in Natural Resources Extension and Service Award

Amy Grotta, Jim Finley and Don Hanley, in addition to being outstanding Extension professionals, were key leaders in ANREP for many years. They have since passed away, but their legacy continues. This award honors them by recognizing experienced ten or more years as ANREP members who, 1) exhibit excellence in planning, designing, delivering, and evaluating high-impact Extension natural resources programs and, 2) perform outstanding leadership in ANREP or other professional associations.

Judging criteria

1. Has the nominee been an ANREP member for ten or more years? (25 points)
2. Does the nominee exemplify strong leadership skills throughout their career delivering exemplary Extension programs at the state, regional, national, or international levels? (25 Points)
3. Has the nominee played a critical role throughout their career by serving in leadership roles within ANREP or another professional association? (25 Points)
4. Has the nominee's leadership created a lasting impact on the institution(s) and professional association(s) they served? (25 Points)

Regional Collaborator Award

This award recognizes achievements of ANREP members who collaborate on a Regional multi-state level. This collaborative effort should exhibit leadership and excellence in planning, designing, delivering, and evaluating a high impact Extension natural resources program. Collaborators should be composed of at least two ANREP members. Each Region (Southern, Western, North Central, Northeast) can grant one award.

Judging criteria

1. Did the collaborators identify critical natural resources issue(s), resources, involvement (people, agencies/cooperators, funds, supplies or equipment), and target audience? (25 Points)

2. How well was the program planned and administered to address critical issues? (25 Points)
3. How successful were the delivery methods and educational materials used to launch this program? (25 Points)
4. How well did the collaborators evaluate the program and highlight significant impacts on people, communities, or natural resources, and provide implications for future programs? (25 Points)

National Partner or Friends of ANREP Award

At the discretion of the ANREP Board of Directors, a national partner and/or a Friend of ANREP award may be awarded to an organization or individual that, in an exemplary manner, supports ANREP programs and goals. This award is not part of the annual award nomination process, although the Board of Directors may from time to time solicit ANREP membership for suggested organizations or individuals worthy of this honor.

Service to ANREP Award

This award recognizes contributions to the ANREP organization. At the discretion of the ANREP Board of Directors, a service award may be awarded to an individual that, in an exemplary manner, supports ANREP programs and goals. This award is not part of the annual award nomination process, although the Board of Directors may from time to time solicit ANREP membership for suggested individuals worthy of this honor.

JUDGES

Judges are recruited annually from ANREP membership in all regions of the United States and evaluation of all materials is completed online. A minimum of two judges will independently judge each submission. Judges' scores are averaged for all categories. The call for judges will begin December 2025 Judges will have from March 3 to March 21, 2026, to complete their score sheets.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Notifications of awards will be emailed to members by **March 31, 2026**. Award winners will also be announced on the ANREP Web page and in its newsletter. The 2026 awards recognition event will take place during the ANREP Biennial Conference in Wilmington, North Carolina, May 12-15, 2026.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Remember, to apply for ANREP award, please complete the [online submission form](#) in its entirety. **All award nominations must be submitted online.** You must sign on using your ANREP member login and password to access the submission system. Please email any questions regarding electronic submission of your entry to Dean Solomon, ANREP Executive Secretary, anrep@anrep.org.

The deadline for the receipt of award submission is **February 22, 2026, 5:00 PM Eastern**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

For further information, please contact:

Catelyn Turner, ANREP Awards Chair, turner.1630@osu.edu.

2026 ANREP Awards Committee

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