

2012 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

General Guidelines and Instructions

The classroom teacher is the backbone of the American educational system. No one person has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates the primary learning and instructional environment. It is the mission of the National Teacher of the Year Program to recognize and honor the contributions of the American classroom teacher. The Program is the oldest and most prestigious honors program to focus public attention on excellence in teaching.

Now in its sixtieth year, the National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the ING Foundation and Target, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers in partnership with the University of Phoenix and People to People Ambassador Programs.

Every state may nominate a candidate for National Teacher of the Year. The National Teacher is released from classroom duties during the year of recognition to serve as a spokesperson and advocate for the entire teaching profession. The National Teacher of the Year maintains a full schedule of speaking engagements throughout the country, and increasingly throughout the world, before a variety of business, community, and education groups.

Nomination

Each chief state school officer is invited to nominate a candidate from his or her jurisdiction. (The method and materials used to select the state candidate may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.)

The candidate should:

- **be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled teacher in any state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, who is planning to continue in an active teaching status; (Supervisory and administrative responsibilities should be of secondary consideration.)**
- **inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn;**
- **have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues;**

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- **play an active and useful role in the community as well as in the school; and**
- **be poised, articulate, and possess the energy to withstand a taxing schedule.**

The name, subject area, grade level taught, school and city of the 2012 candidate must be provided to the National Teacher of the Year Program on or before October 31, 2011, by phone, letter, fax, or electronic mail. The complete application package of state's candidate for 2012 National Teacher of the Year, submitted on the official application form, must be in the offices of the National Teacher of the Year program on or before Thursday, November 3, 2011.

Selection

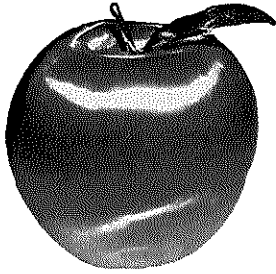
A National Selection Committee selects four finalists from the nominations received. The finalists are brought to Washington, DC, for individual interviews with the committee. The National Selection Committee includes one representative from each of the following organizations:

- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers
- Association for Childhood Education International
- ASCD
- Association of Teacher Educators
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- National Association of State Boards of Education
- National PTA
- National Education Association
- National Middle School Association
- National School Boards Association
- National School Public Relations Association.

If a state's candidate is selected as the 2012 National Teacher of the Year, the chief state school officer and the teacher will be notified, on a confidential basis, several weeks in advance of the public announcement. The three finalists not selected and their chief state school officers will receive confidential notification at the same time.

Contact Jon Quam, Director, National Teacher of the Year Program, if you have any questions or concerns (202-336-7047; 202-789-0596 fax; email: jonq@ccsso.org).

(State)



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I. General Information/Signatures

Nominee Name _____

Home Address _____

City State Zip Code Telephone ()

Social Security # - - Date of Birth / /

Email Address(es) _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City State Zip Code Telephone ()
School Profile (check one): ~ Urban ~ Suburban ~ Rural

Number of Students in Nominee's: District _____ Building _____

Major Subject Area (if any) _____ Grade Level _____

Total Years of Teaching Experience _____ Years in Present Position _____

I hereby give my permission that any or all of the attached materials (other than home address, telephone, SS# and DOB) may be shared with persons interested in promoting the National Teacher of the Year Program. I also acknowledge that if selected as the 2012 National Teacher of the Year, I will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of my recognition in order to fulfill the obligations inherent in the honor.

Signature of Candidate _____ Date _____

(Section I. continued - General Information/Signatures)

SCHOOL/BUILDING PRINCIPAL

Name _____ Title _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City State Zip Code Telephone

I acknowledge that the nominee submits this application with my approval. If the nominee is selected as the 2012 National Teacher of the Year, he or she will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of recognition.

Signature of School Principal _____ Date _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Name _____ Title _____

District Name/Address _____

City State Zip Code Telephone

I acknowledge that the nominee submits this application with my approval. If the nominee is selected as the 2012 National Teacher of the Year he or she will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of recognition.

Signature of District Superintendent _____ Date _____

STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Name _____ Title _____

Agency _____

Address _____

City State Zip Code Telephone

Coordinator Signature _____ Date _____

II. Educational History and Professional Development Activities - (two double-spaced pages)

- A. Beginning with most recent, list colleges and universities attended including postgraduate studies. Indicate degrees earned and dates of attendance.
- B. Beginning with most recent, list teaching employment history indicating time period, grade level and subject area.
- C. Beginning with most recent, list professional association memberships including information regarding offices held and other relevant activities.
- D. Beginning with most recent, list staff development leadership activity and leadership activity in the training of future teachers.
- E. Beginning with the most recent, list awards and other recognition of your teaching.

(Section II. continued - Educational History and Professional Development Activities)

III. Professional Biography - (two double-spaced pages)

- A. What were the factors that influenced you to become a teacher? Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education.

(Section III. continued - Professional Biography)

IV. Community Involvement - (one double-spaced page)

- A. Describe your commitment to your community through service-oriented activities such as volunteer work, civic responsibilities and other group activities.

V. Philosophy of Teaching - (two double-spaced pages)

- A. Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes you an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching.
- B. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?

(Section V. continued - Philosophy of Teaching)

VI. Education Issues and Trends - (two double-spaced pages)

- A. What do you consider to be the major public education issues today?
Address **one** in depth, outlining possible causes, effects and resolutions.

(Section VI. continued - Education Issues and Trends)

VII. The Teaching Profession - (two double-spaced pages)

- A. What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession?
- B. What is and/or what should be the basis for accountability in the teaching profession?

(Section VII. continued - The Teaching Profession)

VIII. National Teacher of the Year - (one double-spaced page)

- A. As the 2012 National Teacher of the Year, you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for the entire teaching profession. What would be your message? What would you communicate to your profession and to the general public?

IX. Letters of Support - (limit of three letters, each a MAXIMUM of ONE PAGE)

Include **three** letters of support from any of the following: superintendent, principal, administrator, colleague, student/former student, parent, or civic leader.

X. Publicity Photograph

Include with the application package a photograph of the candidate, either hard copy or electronic, suitable for publicity purposes. A 5" x 7" head shot in color is preferred.