

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Award Selection Process

The goal of the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Awards is to celebrate the accomplishments of our outstanding volunteers and improve program retention by recognizing the diversity of participants.

Volunteer and Trainer Awards

You may nominate yourself or someone else. Nominations should include a short narrative describing why the individual(s) and/or group deserve(s) the award, how they furthered Adopt-A-Stream's five main goals, and how they excelled in the protection of Georgia's waterways. Narratives for volunteer and trainer awards should be a minimum of 250 words. Supporting materials such as photographs are accepted and encouraged.

The goals of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream are, 1) increase public awareness of the State's nonpoint source pollution and water quality issues, 2) collect quality baseline water quality data, 3) encourage volunteers to take observations of their adopted site and surrounding environment, 4) encourage partnerships between citizens and their local government, and 5) provide citizens with the tools and training to evaluate and protect their local waterways.

Judging Criteria (AAS Advisory Board reviews and selects winning applicants based on the following):

- Volunteer awards may be given to non-paid participants only, unless otherwise noted
- Trainer awards include a non-paid and a paid participant nomination
- Nominees must be active with the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program
- Nomination must meet the description of the award and reflect the last calendar year
- The Board can award more than one volunteer/group per category
- A winner for each category does not need to be selected
- The Board is encouraged to consider the following in review of applications:
 - Diversity of award winners by category from year to year
 - Representation of regional diversity within the state
 - Diversity of ages and group associations

Watershed Award

These awards recognize local public utilities, government agencies, regional commissions, non-profits, and watershed organizations that have exceeded standards in implementing the five Adopt-A-Stream goals.

All nominees must complete a narrative describing how their program has met the five goals of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. Submitted narratives must be no more than 3 pages in length. All answers should reflect the last calendar year. Please include any supporting documentation (promotional materials, photographs, training materials, newspaper clippings, etc.) attached to your application.

**Winners cannot be awarded consecutive years

Award Winners Receive:

- Volunteers and Trainers—Certificate & River Rock from Georgia Adopt-A-Stream presented at Confluence
- Watershed—Certificate & Engraved Plaque from Georgia Adopt-A-Stream presented at Confluence
- If they cannot attend Confluence, we will do our best to present it locally
- Recognition in the Adopt-A-Stream Newsletter
- Press release sent to their local paper
- Winners will receive free registration to Confluence