

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Award Descriptions

**Note: All nominees are assumed to be volunteers. Professional paid staff can qualify for some awards as noted.*

Volunteer of the Year

Individual has gone beyond the call of duty to improve water quality and meet AAS goals.

Extraordinary Watershed Monitoring Effort

- Nominee or group is active in more than one AAS monitoring program and at more than one site (Watershed, Visual, Chemical, Macroinvertebrate, & Bacterial).
- Has extended monitoring efforts across the watershed and beyond municipal boundaries.

Red Flag Award

Nominee has taken action to address a water quality issue at their sampling site.

- What was the issue?
- How was it documented and was it resolved?
- Did the nominee work with partners and what was the resulting impact on the community and waterway?

Examples: stream restoration project, stormwater mitigation project, installing a rain garden, illicit discharge, stream erosion issue, etc.

Outstanding Outreach and Partnership

Nominee has demonstrated skill in effectively implementing AAS outreach efforts and/or has created a strong network of community partnerships. What were the results from partnerships created?

Examples: Creating funding opportunities, hosting outreach/ educational events, creating promotional materials, establishing monitoring program, gathering partners to address a problem, working with civic, community or government organizations.

Innovation in Adopt-A-Stream Award *(volunteer or professional)*

Nominee has excelled in developing a new or innovative outreach platform, monitoring tool or other resource that contributes to the goals of Adopt-A-Stream.

Examples: water sampling tools, multimedia, art, website, data analysis or display, apps, music, YouTube, etc.

Excellence in Data Collection

Nominee has ...

- Consistently collected AAS QA/QC quality data.
- Diligently renewed QA/QC certification(s).
- Demonstrated the importance of data integrity in their monitoring program.

Nymph Award

Nominee has participated in the AAS program for no more than three years and has excelled in meeting its goals and promoting improvement and protection of water quality.

Excellence in Education *(volunteer or professional)*

Nominee has excelled in connecting students to their local watershed by bringing AAS into their curriculum. Nominee has introduced students to citizen science by giving them the opportunity to participate in events such as water quality monitoring, watershed assessments, AAS trainings, stream restoration, and river cleanups. Not all students need to be

QA/QC certified but have been giving a vested interest in protecting our watersheds through engagement in the AAS program.

Beyond Borders (*volunteer or professional*)

Nominee has gone beyond the call of duty to improve water quality and meet AAS goals outside the state of Georgia. This can be a paid or unpaid trainer, volunteer, coordinator, or watershed group.