

SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA AWARDS CATEGORIES AND AWARD NOMINATION FORM

(Updated July/2022)

The Sierra Club Florida has always felt that recognition of the work of volunteers is a responsibility because volunteers are essential to the work of the Club. All Groups should take advantage of this state-level awards program to honor your volunteers for exemplary work. Candidates should generally be recognized at the Group level first for work and projects that affect the group demographic. These state level awards should be reserved for candidates for longstanding activism. This is also an opportunity to recognize supporters who may not be Sierra Club members, but have gone to extraordinary measures to support the mission and goals of Sierra Club.

1. Notice of a call for nominations will be announced via email, on social media and on the Chapter web site.
2. There are three (3) categories of Sierra Florida Awards, as follows:
 - a. Awards to members for outstanding work/leadership at the Group level;
 - i. [Pine Tree](#)
 - ii. [Manatee](#)
 - iii. [Panther](#)
 - iv. [Oak Leaf](#)
 - v. [Otter](#)
 - vi. [Gopher Tortoise](#)
 - vii. [Sand Dollar](#)
 - viii. [Whooping Crane](#)
 - b. Awards to Sierra members or members of the community at-large for outstanding environmental work:
 - i. [Red Howell Legal Services Award](#)
 - ii. [Indigo](#)
 - iii. [Barred Owl](#)
 - iv. [Cypress](#)
 - v. [Osprey](#)
 - c. Awards to members for outstanding work/leadership at the State level:
 - i. [Florida Chapter Medal](#)
 - ii. [Black Bear](#)
 1. Conservation
 2. Administration
 - iii. [Pelican](#)
3. Click [here](#) to jump to the Award Nomination form (last page in document)
 - a. After completing all entries, scan or attach the form to an email and send to: mary-slater.linn@florida.sierraclub.org or mail to: Mary-Slater Linn, 804 Ruggy St, Apt 1, Orlando, FL 32804-4955.

[Nomination Form is at the end of this document](#)

AWARDS FOR GROUP ACTIVISM

PINE TREE AWARD

This is a special award for Group leadership. It honors a Group leader whose outstanding leadership has been of exceptional benefit to the Group in any of the following areas: management, inspiration and encouragement of volunteers, fundraising, membership. This is not an award for environmental work. Each Group may nominate one person for this award. The awards Committee will select 0-4 recipients annually.

MANATEE AWARD

This award honors a Group member who has done an outstanding job of service to the Group. Each Group may nominate one person annually for this award. The Awards Committee will select 0-4 recipients annually.

PANTHER AWARD

This award is given to a Group member who has done outstanding conservation work on a project within the Group's area. Each Group may nominate one member annually. The Awards Committee will select 0-4 recipients annually.

OAK LEAF AWARD

This is a special achievement award for environmental work. Recipients of this award will be selected by the Awards Committee from among the nominees for the Panther Award. From 0-3 persons will be selected annually.

OTTER AWARD

This award honors a Group member who has done an outstanding job for the Group's outings program. Each Group may nominate one person annually for this award. The Awards Committee will select 0-4 recipients annually.

GOPHER TORTOISE AWARD

This is a Group support award for a person (spouse, significant other, good friend, etc) whose continued extraordinary behind the scenes efforts encourages and supports a more visible, recognized activist. Nominations must detail the actual contributions to Sierra Club of the nominee as they relate to this award. Named for the gopher tortoise, whose burrows can support up to 360 other species, including those endangered and threatened. Each Group may nominate one person annually and the Awards Committee will select up to four recipients per year.

SAND DOLLAR AWARD

This award honors a Group member who has done an outstanding job for the Group's fundraising program. Each Group may nominate one person annually and the Awards Committee will select up to four recipients per year.

WHOOPIING CRANE AWARD

This awards honors a Group member who has done an outstanding job in the area of communications for the Group. This can include Group newsletter and Group web page and social media. Each Group may nominate one person annually and the Awards Committee will select up to 4 recipients per year.

AWARDS TO SIERRA MEMBERS OR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY-AT-LARGE FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

RED HOWELL LEGAL SERVICES AWARD

This award is given in remembrance of a dedicated friend of the environment. Red Howell was an attorney and a Sierra Club activist who served as the fourth chair of the Florida Chapter. He was a founder and a chair of the Polk County Group and was an activist in the Volusia-Flagler Group. His special interest was land use law, and he spent the last fifteen years of his life working to protect Florida's fragile environment. This award is given in Red Howell's name to recognize attorneys who work through the legal system to improve Florida's environmental quality. The Awards Committee will select recipient(s) subject to Florida Chapter Executive Committee approval.

THE INDIGO AWARD

This award is for a writer/journalist who has contributed greatly through research and knowledge to uncover specific issues impacting the environment, environmental injustice, or environmental policy in the state of Florida. The candidate can be from any media (print, book, broadcast, digital, podcast, documentary, etc.). Samples of work must be provided with the nomination. The Awards Committee will select recipient(s) subject to Florida Chapter Executive Committee approval.

BARRED OWL AWARD

This award is for a business that has consistently addressed environmental concerns, clean energy and/or sustainability as a major part of its presence in the marketplace through its product and its dealings with suppliers, consumers and the general public. The Awards Committee will select recipient(s) subject to Florida Chapter Executive Committee approval. [top](#)

CYPRESS AWARD

This is for an individual who has contributed greatly to the public's environmental awareness in his or her own locale or Florida as a whole. The Awards Committee will select recipient(s) subject to Florida Chapter Executive Committee approval.

OSPREY AWARD

This award is presented for extraordinary effort by a governmental staff person to promote or effect changes in policy or practice to protect or preserve Florida's environment. The Awards Committee will select recipient(s) annually subject to Florida Chapter Executive Committee approval.

AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AT THE STATE LEVEL

FLORIDA CHAPTER MEDAL

This is the highest Chapter honor and is awarded only with the approval of the Awards Committee and Florida Chapter Executive board. It is designed to honor a Sierra Club member who has sustained many years of exceptional

leadership in conservation work on state, regional or national levels. Documentation is critical for this award. Nominations should include supporting materials such as links to news stories and testimonial letters.

BLACK BEAR AWARD

This award honors a member with an outstanding record of leadership and dedicated service to the Chapter. It can acknowledge service either in the administration of the Chapter or outstanding conservation work at the state or national level. No more than two awards may be given in one year: one for administrative work and one for conservation work.

PELICAN AWARD

This award honors a member for exceptional work on a project of statewide importance supporting Sierra Club's political goals or issues of equity, inclusion and justice (EIJ). This award is for the "layman" volunteer activist. Chapter officers are not eligible for this award while in office. No more than two Pelican Awards can be given in one year.

NOMINATION FORM BELOW

Sierra Club Florida Award Nomination Form

Deadline is November 1. Awards will be announced Spring 2024.

All Florida Sierra Club members in good standing are invited to submit nominations. Your nominee doesn't need to be a member of your own Group.

You must completely detail the person's qualifications. Do not assume that the Awards Committee has any information about the merits of your nominee. Incomplete nominations will be returned for more information and must be resubmitted before the deadline to be considered.

Send your this completed form, including narrative on the candidate, to awards@florida.sierraclub.org or mail it to: Mary-Slater Linn, 804 Ruky St, Apt 1, Orlando, FL 32804-4955.

Including the following information:

1. Nominee's Name: _____
2. Nominee's Group: _____
3. Award Name: _____ (Panther, Manatee, etc.)
4. Length of Service: _____
5. Previous Group or Chapter Awards: _____
6. Nominated by Group ExCom: yes / no
7. Contact Name: _____

Your email address: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please attach narrative why nominee should get the award. The more details you provide, the better the awards committee can evaluate the nominee. Questions? Email awards@florida.sierraclub.org