



AITC TEACHER OF THE YEAR CONTEST:

Postmark Deadline: Dec. 31, 2017

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is pleased to announce the **2018 Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year** contest. This competitive contest will focus statewide attention on the critical role of teaching. Ag in the Classroom (AITC) will honor one **PreK-12th grade** Oklahoma teacher who emphasizes agricultural concepts into non-vocational agriculture classroom settings. *Note: In accordance with the National AITC Contest rules, teachers of high school agricultural education or career and technical education are not eligible to apply for this award.*

Applications are invited for this year's award. **If you have applied before, please note that the application and prizes have changed.** The deadline for postmark of completed applications is **December 31, 2017**. Submit to: Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, ATTN Ag in the Classroom, 2800 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Who can apply for the 2018 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year?

Educators who meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Certified teachers currently engaged in PreK-12th non-vocational agriculture classroom instruction
- ❖ Teachers who have attended AITC professional development and/or the AITC summer professional development

The Purpose of Ag in the Classroom:

The purpose of Ag in the Classroom is building agriculture literacy. Curriculum developed to that end uses agriculture-related activities and research-based background material to teach pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade core curriculum in language arts, math, science, reading, social studies and the visual arts.

What is the Ag in the Classroom 2018 Teacher of the Year Award?

- ❖ **One PreK-12th grade teacher** will be recognized for his/her creative efforts to teach students about the importance of agriculture and **will be named 2018 AITC Teacher of the Year (TOY)**.
- ❖ Awards will be presented at Ag Day, April 10, 2018, at the State Capitol.
- ❖ The AITC TOY will receive a plaque & cash prizes valued at approximately \$2000 which will include: registration, travel & accommodations to attend the 2018 AITC National Conference in Portland, Maine, on June 26-29, 2018.
- ❖ Up to three AITC TOY finalists will also be recognized this day and will receive prizes, as well.
- ❖ During the summer AITC professional development tours, workshops, and state conference, the AITC TOY and finalists will share their AITC teaching experiences.

Criteria for Selection

Teachers must integrate/utilize agricultural information within their classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Teachers should highlight how they are using AITC lessons, activities, and resources to share their passion for agriculture with their students. Innovative, integrated, and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Educator Narrative:** Share your “Ag in the Classroom Story.” Suggested ideas to include: How did you become involved with AITC? What lessons and activities do you utilize in your classroom? How has using AITC made a difference in your teaching career? Why do you have a passion to educate your students about agriculture? In what AITC training opportunities have you participated? **25 points**
- **Creativity and utilization of agricultural information:** Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning about agriculture. Evidence of your impact on student attitudes towards agriculture should be evident. Suggested ideas to include: How has using AITC impacted your students lives? What creative ideas have you added to the AITC lessons to make them your own? How do you involve parents, the community, or students outside your classroom? Share how you use grants, community extensions, etc. in your classroom. **25 points**
- **Interdisciplinary approach:** Share how you teach agricultural concepts in a variety of subjects and disciplines. Value will be placed on teaching agriculture across the curriculum, however if you teach a content specific subject, such as biology or art, then share how you use AITC to expand your content and also encourage students to see agriculture as it relates to not only your subject, but others as well. **25 points**
- **Documentation and photos:** Show evidence of using AITC lessons, resources, and activities in your classroom by including photographs of students engaged in AITC activities, news articles, photos of bulletin boards related to agriculture literacy, community outreach, school newsletters, grant award letters, etc. **20 pts**
- **Formatting of application:** The degree to which the applicant has completed the application in accordance to the instructions. **5pts**

Evaluation of Applications

A panel of judges familiar with agriculture, education and AITC will evaluate all applications.

Submission of Applications

Submit the following:

- The completed information form
- The completed application (no more than 8 pages, see requirements)
- Two letters of endorsement (one from an administrator and one from a colleague or parent)

Deadline for postmark of completed applications is December 31, 2017

Submit to:

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ATTN AG IN THE CLASSROOM
2800 N. LINCOLN
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105
Ag in the Classroom Coordinators
Cheri Long – cheri.long@ag.ok.gov – 405-249-9234
Melody Auffer – melody.auffer@ag.ok.gov – 405-795-0121
Audrey Harmon – audrey.harmon@ag.ok.gov – 405-740-0160

2018

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom

Teacher of the Year



2018 Application Packet

Please complete and return

- (1) The attached information form
- (2) The typewritten application and
- (3) Two letters of endorsement (see requirements)

to:

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ATTN AG IN THE CLASSROOM
2800 N. Lincoln
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105

(Postmark deadline December 31, 2017)

Questions? Contact Audrey Harmon
audrey.harmon@ag.ok.gov
405-740-0160

**Ag in the Classroom 2018 Teacher of the Year Application
Information Form**

Teacher's Name _____

Home Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

School Name _____

School Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail address _____

Grade Level _____ Subjects taught _____

Principal's Name _____

of years teaching experience _____ # of years at current school _____

FEEL FREE TO ADD SPACE TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS NEEDED, TO INCLUDE ALL OF YOUR INFORMATION

Education (include institution, graduation year, degree/certification)

Ag in the Classroom Training(s)

Awards and Honors Related to Teaching

Other Recognition or Honors

Membership in Professional Organizations

Ag in the Classroom 2018 Teacher of the Year Application

Provide a narrative response to the following questions. Limit responses to **2 pages per item** (for a total of 8 pages). Reviewers will not read beyond the page limit of the application form to evaluate the application. When writing, consider the evaluation criteria. Each response must be typed on one side of the page only, using a font no smaller than **12 point** and **double-spaced**. All margins must be at least one inch. Each applicant should clearly label the parts of their application with page headers and submit them with the following format: **(5 points)**

Name, school, document title

Example:

Jane Doe, Anytown Public School, Educator Narrative

Jane Doe, Anytown Public School, Creativity and Utilization

Jane Doe, Anytown Public School, Interdisciplinary Approach

Jane Doe, Anytown Public School, Documentation and Photos

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2. **Creativity and utilization of agricultural information:** Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning about agriculture. Evidence of your impact on student attitudes towards agriculture should be evident. Suggested ideas to include: How has using AITC impacted your students lives? What creative ideas have you added to the AITC lessons to make them your own? How do you involve parents, the community, or students outside your classroom? Share how you use grants, community extensions, etc. in your classroom. **(two page limit, 25 points)**

3. **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Share how you teach agricultural concepts in a variety of subjects and disciplines. Value will be placed on teaching agriculture across the curriculum, however if you teach a content specific subject, such as biology or art, then share how you use AITC to expand your content and also encourage students to see agriculture as it relates to not only your subject, but others as well. **(two page limit, 25 points)**

4. **Documentation and photos:** Show evidence of using AITC lessons, resources, and activities in your classroom by including photographs of students engaged in AITC activities, news articles, photos of bulletin boards related to agriculture literacy, community outreach, school newsletters, grant award letters, etc. **(two page limit, 20 pts)**