

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
CONSERVATION ACCESS, RELEVANCY, and ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

2024 SEAFWA C.A.R.E. AWARDS PROCEESS AND CRITERIA

Executive Statement:

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) is an organization whose members are the state agencies with primary responsibility for management and protection of the fish and wildlife resources in 15 states, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Member states are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. SEAFWA serves as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas concerning wildlife and fisheries management, research techniques, wildlife law enforcement, hunting and outdoor safety and information and education programs.

As a committee of SEAFWA, the Conservation Access, Relevancy and Engagement (C.A.R.E.) committee has initiated an award as a way of recognizing SEAFWA member agencies for their effort to advancing welcoming internal cultures and promoting access to outdoor activities targeting underrepresented populations. The objective is to recognize the member agencies that have made purposeful advancements towards internal and external people access and engagement while presenting best practices for other agencies to follow.

What is the Application and Selection Process?

Agencies can nominate a team focusing on the goals to advance welcoming internal cultures or promoting access to outdoor activities for underrepresented populations.

Exemplary programs will receive the “Gold” award, while other outstanding entries will receive “Silver.” Winners will be acknowledged during the annual SEAFWA awards banquet with a memento given to the State Director by the president of SEAFWA and the chair of C.A.R.E.

The awards process will be as follows:

- Announcement of SEAFWA C.A.R.E. Awards process
- Forward awards application and criteria to State Directors
- Selection of volunteer judges for awards
- Receipt and compilation of applications and letters describing the initiative.
- Review and select award winners
- Announcement of winners to SEAFWA leadership
- Securing of mementos for winners
- Provide list and logos of all member organizations who submitted an application to program committee
- Announce winners during SEAFWA awards banquet

Who is invited to Participate?

All SEAFWA member agencies are encouraged to participate. The selection committee reserves the right to select no more than two gold and silver winners. Member agencies are asked to refrain from applying if they have won three consecutive years.

What is the Process for Awarding the Winners?

Winners will be awarded either the Gold Award or the Silver Award.

Gold Award: These programs are exemplary examples of workforce engagement or outreach and education. Winners will receive an award plaque and recognition at the SEAFWA Banquet. Winners are required to present their programs at the next SEAFWA conference during the C.A.R.E. Workshop for Conservation Professionals.

Silver Award: These programs are excellent examples of workforce engagement or outreach and education. Winners will receive an awards plaque and be recognized at the SEAFWA Banquet.

How Will the Award be presented?

The detailed description of the award presentation and announcement of winners is listed below:

1. Provide list of winners to banquet committee.
2. Supply logos for all winners, if requested.
3. Deliver names of winners to banquet committee with brief (one minutes maximum) overview of program.
4. Select and secure awards plaque for winners.
5. Inform winning agencies and request a spokesperson to accept reward.
6. Post winners on SEAFWA and C.A.R.E. websites.
7. Compile and distribute best practice information to leadership of each member organization.

What's next?

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| ○ Sending application to member agencies | Aug. 15 |
| ○ Applications Deadline | Sep. 13 |
| ○ Selection of winners | Sep. 20 |
| ○ Winners notification (logos requested) | Sep. 23 |
| ○ Award presentation | Oct. 15 |

Please direct any questions to C.A.R.E. Committee Chairperson, George Braxton at george.braxton@dwr.virginia.gov