



The Lake Superior Binational Program* Seeks Nominations for its Seventh Annual

2010 Environmental Stewardship Awards Program *“Honoring Extraordinary Achievements by Ordinary People”*

Lake Superior is one of the world’s biggest and most unusual lakes and therefore deserves special attention and protection. Do you know of someone whose efforts to protect or restore the Lake Superior basin’s natural environment are truly superior? If so, help make others in the basin aware of their contributions by nominating them for this binational awards program.

The nomination period for the awards is now open. Deadline for completed applications is **Friday, April 16, 2010**. Applications may be made by the nominee (self-nominated) or by making a nomination on another’s behalf. Members of the Lake Superior Binational Program* review each nomination and select a winner in each category from each country. Judges may also make Honorary Mention awards to suitable nominations.

Winners will be notified in June 2010. Each winner will receive a commemorative award made by a regional artist and a framed certificate at an awards ceremony in July or other appropriate time. Honorary Mention winners will receive a framed certificate and be mentioned in press releases.

A full nomination packet is available at the Lake Superior Binational Forum’s* website at <http://www.superiorforum.org/forum>

For more information in the US, contact the US Forum Coordinator at (715) 682-1489; or awards@northland.edu. In Canada, contact the Canadian Forum Coordinator at (807) 624-2144; or mercddivertsuperior@yahoo.com

*The Lake Superior Binational Program represents a partnership of federal, state, provincial, and First Nations/tribal governments working together with citizens to ensure the protection of the Lake Superior basin ecosystem. The Lake Superior Binational Forum is a citizen stakeholder group of Americans and Canadians who work together to provide input to governments about these efforts and to educate basin residents about ways to protect and restore the lake basin’s natural resources.

The Forum is funded in the US by the Environmental Protection Agency/Great Lakes National Program Office and in Canada by Environment Canada. The US Coordinator is located at Northland College in Ashland, WI; the Canadian Coordinator is at Lakehead University In Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Lake Superior Day is July 18, 2010 (third Sunday every July)

Lake Superior Binational Program
2010 Environmental Stewardship Awards Program
“Honoring Extraordinary Achievements by Ordinary People”

Deadline for Nominations: Friday, April 16, 2010

Introduction

The Lake Superior Binational Program initiated this basin-wide awards program to honor the outstanding achievements of individuals and groups that are protecting or restoring the natural environment of the Lake Superior basin. The award pays tribute to these individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship through leadership in five categories.

By sponsoring the awards, the Lake Superior Binational Program hopes to encourage residents in the basin to implement similar successful actions to improve water quality and natural environments.

Categories

1. Youth or youth-related group or school for ages 12 to 18
2. An Individual Adult
3. Business
4. Industry
5. Community Group, Municipality, or First Nation/Tribe.

Eligibility and Criteria

Applicants can be self-nominated, or nominations may be made on someone else's behalf.

Finalists in each category from the US and Canada will be selected using the following criteria or guidelines:

1. The achievement should have had a positive impact by helping protect or restore the natural environment in the Lake Superior basin (the basin extends about 50 miles inland from the lake's shoreline in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario, and includes any island community). Preference will be given to those activities that show measurable and beneficial environmental impacts as a result of their implementation.

Protect is defined as “minimize negative environmental impacts.” *Restore* is defined as “return an element of the natural environment to a more natural condition.”

2. Nominations should describe activities or initiatives that were completed between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2009.

3. Describe how the activity or initiative benefited the natural environment.

4. The project should encourage stewardship *behaviors or actions*. Strong preference will be given to projects that have achieved positive change through action that went above and beyond required operations (for example, the actions are not the minimum required by law, ordinance, or statute; not completed by paid staff as required in a job description, etc.)

5. Demonstrate successful partnerships with other community or business stakeholders where possible.
6. Be reproducible, where possible, so that others in the Lake Superior basin can also implement the activity.

Youth Ages 12 to 18 Years Old Criteria

1. The nomination may be for an individual student, school group or club, community youth group, or for a school-wide activity.
2. The nomination should demonstrate excellence in such areas as:
 - An individual or group activity that took place in the school or community
 - A one-time event, or an ongoing activity scheduled regularly throughout the school year
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Activities that supplemented an established educational curriculum
 - Environmental action program.

Example: A school ecology club sells recycled paper gift wrap to the community. Proceeds are used to plant a small native garden on school property.

Individual Adult Criteria

1. Most of the planning and implementation of the project should have been done by an individual, with some collaboration with others to complete the project.
2. The individual should not be directly affiliated with the Lake Superior Binational Program.

Example: An individual organizes a water quality monitoring project with staff at her county's land conservation department and a local bait shop.

Business and Industry Criteria

1. Successful nominations should go beyond regulatory requirements at state, provincial, federal, or tribal levels.
2. Businesses and industries of all sizes are eligible.
3. Business or industry nominees should document measurable improvements to the environment as a result of the action taken.
4. The business or industry should not have a representative on the Lake Superior Binational Program or Forum.

Example: An industry commits to reducing its mercury emissions by 50 percent over the next five years.

Community Group, Municipality, or First Nation/Tribe Criteria

1. Nominees in this category should be involved with meeting the public needs or interests of a community, including volunteer activities conducted by area groups on behalf of the community or tribe.

Example: A small city organizes a community-wide collection of hazardous materials.

Submission Information

Please email a completed nomination form to the U.S. coordinator at awards@northland.edu no later than Friday, April 16, 2010.

Please mail any supporting materials to: Lake Superior Binational Forum, Northland College, 1411 Ellis Ave., Ashland, WI, 54806. Regular mail needs to be postmarked by April 16, please.

Judging Process

Judges include members of the Lake Superior Binational Program who represent the US, Canada, and First Nations/Tribes.

Winners will be contacted in June 2010 All winners will be promoted throughout the basin using newspapers, radio, and Internet contacts.

Award Presentations

Each winner will receive a commemorative award made by a regional artist and a framed certificate. Winners will be invited to participate in an awards ceremony in their own country to be held on a date and at a location to be determined by the host country.

For More Information

In the US: (715) 682-1489; awards@northland.edu

In Canada: (807) 624-2144; mercdivertsuperior@yahoo.com

For a list of previous winners and more information about the Lake Superior Binational Forum, please go to <http://www.superiorforum.org/forum>

Also, the Forum invites you to celebrate Lake Superior Day annually on the third Sunday in July by sponsoring an event or activity. Please visit the Forum website for ideas!

Lake Superior Binational Program
2010 Environmental Stewardship Awards Program
Nomination Form

“Honoring Extraordinary Achievements by Ordinary People”

Deadline for Submission: Friday, April 16, 2010

Date:

Name of Nominee:

CATEGORY (Select one): Youth; Individual Adult; Business; Industry; Community Group/Municipality/Tribe or First Nations.

Contact Person for the Nominee:

Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Email:

Web Address (if any):

Application Questions

1. What environmental need did the nominee address?

2. What kind of solution or action did the nominee develop to address the identified need? Describe any unique or innovative aspects of the activity or initiative, especially regarding any special challenges that had to be overcome to reach your goals.

3. What effect or impact did the nominee have on the natural environment? Include in your response as much measurable impact as possible when describing the scope or breadth of this impact within your work.

4. What specific examples, data, or other evidence demonstrates the environmental effect or impact described above?

5. Include any press reports that described the activity or initiative such as news articles or photographs, web articles, newsletter articles, etc. These are not essential or required, but they may help judges make a more informed decision.

6. To your knowledge, has the nominee or nominee's organization been fined or cited for adverse environmental impacts at any time during the last three years?

YES

NO

If yes, explain briefly:

7. Have you already won an award for this project?

YES

NO

If yes, please explain:

I confirm that the above information is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Nominator's Name:

Nominator's Phone Number and Email:

Submission Information

Please email this nomination form to awards@northland.edu no later than Friday, April 16, 2010. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Please mail any supporting documentation to: Lake Superior Binational Forum, Northland College, 1411 Ellis Ave., Ashland, WI 54806.