

**Overview of the**  
**Pennsylvania Water Rescue Instructors Association's**  
***Chris A. Calhoun Water Rescue Education Award***

The Pennsylvania Water Rescue Instructors Association's Chris A. Calhoun Water Rescue Education Award acknowledges individual instructors who have utilized the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commissions Water Rescue Program in providing outstanding leadership, dedication, and a passion to teach and inspire students over the course of the past calendar year. Chris A. Calhoun is the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's lead water rescue instructor trainer and is responsible for developing the program's curriculum and instructor training.

In order to be nominated for the Chris A. Calhoun Water Rescue Education Award, individuals must meet a variety of eligibility criteria. Nominations will undergo a competitive selection process conducted by the Pennsylvania Water Rescue Instructors Association Award committee.

The criteria for award selection are designed to reflect the consensus of the PWRIA award committee regarding what constitutes receiving the Chris A. Calhoun Water Rescue Education Award. The criteria focus on all areas of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commissions Water Rescue Training Programs. The individual selected for receiving the award will be recognized at the PWRIA spring meeting and receive a Chris A. Calhoun Water Rescue Education Award plaque.

**Timeline**

- Call for nominations – December 2<sup>nd</sup> of each Year.
- Close of nominations – January 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Selection by committee – February 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Award presentation – spring meeting of the PWRIA in March.

**Selection Criteria**

- The nominee must be an active instructor with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Water Rescue Training Program.
- The nominee must be a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The programs do not have to be taught just in the state. Out of state individuals and departments may nominate an instructor.
- The nominee is recognized by his or her peers as contributing above and beyond median performance.
- The nominee must be an individual and not an organization. Personal and professional affiliations with water safety organizations will be considered as part of the application evaluation process.
- Any news media, reports, pictures, etc. will be beneficial to explaining the course of events that took place during the past year but are not required if nothing else is submitted other written statements.

## **Application**

The Pennsylvania Water Rescue Instructors Association will open the nomination process on December 2nd. Nominations shall be submitted to [Awards@pawaterrescue.com](mailto:Awards@pawaterrescue.com). Nominations will be compiled and coordinated for review by the PWRIA's Award Committee. Nominations will not be considered if submitted after the deadline.

The nominations must include the following:

- The nomination year and award.
- Name, mailing address, telephone numbers, e-mail address, department/team (if applicable), and title of the nominee and the person submitting the nomination.
- Names and contact information of others that support your nomination (Not more than 4).
- Description of the nominee's qualifications for the award.
- Name and summary of the incident/event/program.
- Additional information to support the nomination.

## **Evaluation of Applications**

The Award Committee shall be established by the PWRIA Chairman and shall consist of 5 members. Evaluators will individually read and rank the qualifying applications. The committee will make the final determination. However, if the committee determines that no application meets the stringent criteria no award will be presented that year. If any member of the committee is nominated for any award they will remove themselves and be replaced by another member of the association.

## **Announcement to Media and Presentation of Awards**

The PWRIA Chairman will make the final determination and announcement of award recipients. When the PWRIA's Award Committee has decided to award a recipient the Steven Chris A. Calhoun Water Rescue Education Award, the presentation of the award will be at the spring meeting and will be announced to the public at that time. The award recipient will receive a Chris A. Calhoun Water Rescue Education Award plaque. Award recipient will have their picture receiving their award on the PWRIA Website [www.pawaterrescue.com](http://www.pawaterrescue.com).