

WM Symposia Distinguished Service Award Criteria and Nomination Instructions



WM Distinguished Service Award – Nomination Deadline 10/31/25

For mid- to late-career professionals whose dedication and tactical leadership have driven major advances over the last twenty years.

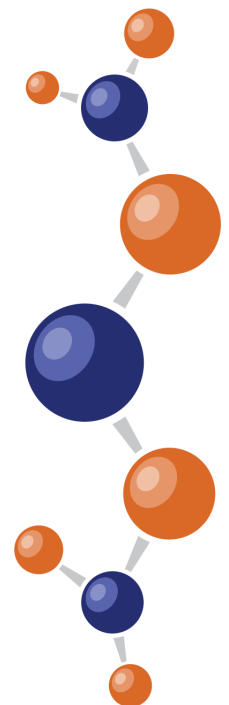
The WM Symposia Distinguished Service Award honours professionals who, over at least the last twenty years of continuous commitment, has driven specific initiatives or targeted solutions to significant challenges in nuclear waste management and related activities. This award highlights professionals whose actions have led to successful policy developments, project outcomes, or technical breakthroughs. Its purpose is to recognize those who have contributed in a significant capacity to enhancing knowledge, direction, and resolution to the diverse challenges within nuclear waste management and related activities. Nominees must demonstrate organizational leadership, program management, policy development, or process improvements that have materially accelerated progress toward long-term waste management goals.

Candidates should have at least twenty years of continuous involvement in nuclear waste management and must have attended at least one WM Symposia conference in the past ten years, confirming active engagement with the field. In addition to leadership accomplishments, nominees are encouraged to show active participation in WM Symposia or related professional organizations. Mentoring early-career professionals—whether by guiding them through conference presentations, facilitating skill development, or providing career advice—also enhances eligibility. Peer recognition is essential: candidates must submit two letters of recommendation from established professionals who can attest to their impact, innovation, and reliability. Nominees must have maintained a flawless record of integrity and professionalism throughout their careers. The nomination package must include a concise statement of impact—describing how the candidate’s work has shaped the field and letters of recommendation from respected peers or community leaders.

Nominations for Candidates:

Candidates may be nominated directly by any individual by submission of a nomination package to the WM website.

The nomination must be received by October 31st of the year prior to the award. The nomination shall be sent to the award review committee and specifically the chairperson of the committee who will keep the record. This duty may be assigned to WM staff.



Candidates nominated for the award will remain active candidates in the system for a rolling three-year period. If not selected within that period, the candidate's name will be removed from consideration. If the person is nominated again or nominated by a different person, the three-year rolling period will remain in effect from the latest date of nomination.

Selection and Appointment:

The nomination and selection committee will be the appointed WM Award Committee. The committee will meet virtually or in person at least three times per year to review candidates once in November after receiving nominations, once in December/ January prior to the print deadlines for the WM conference, and once at the WM conference in February/March.

The process for selection will include the individual nomination committee member review of all candidates' nomination packages, followed by a full nomination committee review, discussion and decision on awardee.

Evaluations are by individuals rank scoring against the criteria, and any ties are resolved by the committee. A committee member may recuse themselves if they believe a conflict arises; at which time a replacement member will be appointed by the WM Award Committee Chairman or the WM President.

Award and Renumeration:

- **Scholarship:**
\$5,000 paid in the awardee's name for the year of award to the Post Foundation. The awardee will be consulted on the recipient of the \$5,000 **Scholarship**. Alternatively, the awardee may opt to award a \$5,000 scholarship to an academic college or university institution of his/her choice.
- **Honorarium:**
\$2,500 paid directly to the awardee (no restrictions).
- **Airfare:**
 - Domestic US travel: up to \$1,500 round trip.
 - Overseas travel: up to \$2,500 round trip.
- **Hotel (2 nights):**
Two nights (Sunday & Monday) at the WM Symposia host-city rate
- **Technical Registration (1 day):**
Covers one-day presenter/attendee technical registration fee.
- **Miscellaneous (parking, meals, local transit):**
\$200 flat allowance.

- **Guest Plenary and Monday Luncheon Ticket:**

Provided at no additional cost (covered by WM Symposia).

Presentation and Recognition:

The award will be given during the WM Symposia conference or as directed by WM Symposia leadership. It will include the presentation of the scholarship award, a congratulatory speech by WM leadership, an acceptance speech by the awardee, and a photo or video opportunity to be posted on the WM website and recognized by WM Symposia.

Please submit your nomination [online](#).