AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
ANNUAL AWARDS CRITERIA

About the Awards

Established in 1987, the Australian Geographic Society Awards are Australia's longest-running awards for adventure. With the addition of the conservation medallions in the early 1990s, the AGS Awards celebrate the best of Australian endeavour.

Each year the AGS honours the achievements of dedicated Australian adventurers, scientists, environmentalists and conservationists.

Because the AGS Awards are a celebration of achievement, and not a competition as such, not all categories are awarded annually and not all years have an awards ceremony. Each nomination and category is judged on merit and not as a competition.

Awardees in the seven categories below must be Australian citizens or permanent residents. Occasionally the AGS awards honorary awards to non-Australians.

All conservation awardees will have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their field of endeavour and will have made a contribution over and above what might be reasonably expected if they are employed in their field, or will have made a voluntary contribution to the community which stands out in some way from other volunteer efforts.

Young Conservationist of the Year
Awarded to a person under the age of 30 who has achieved significant outcomes in the fields of environment, sustainability and conservation. There is no defined qualifying time period for this award.

Young Adventurer of the Year
Awarded to a person under 30, this award usually reflects a particular expedition or adventure during the previous 12–18 months.

Conservationist of the Year
Although most of us are committed to improving our environment, there are some whose sustained efforts stand out within the fields of sustainability and conservation. This award honours those who have made significant progress in conservation. There is no defined qualifying time period for this award.

Spirit of Adventure
This is awarded to those whose efforts reflect strength, determination and the ability to overcome obstacles to attain their goals and achieve great things. It also acknowledges that sometimes it takes more than one attempt to achieve those goals. There is no age limit. It usually reflects an undertaking in the previous 12–18 months.

Adventurer of the Year
This award has been won by many of Australia's greatest adventurers and explorers of the modern age such as Tim Jarvis AM and the late Sue Fear AM. It reflects a particularly notable achievement in adventure or exploration during the previous 12–18 months. There is no age limit.

Lifetime of Conservation Award
This honour is given to those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to their field of environment, conservation, sustainability and scientific research in the fields of conservation or sustainability. Awarded for the first time in 2008, this medal reflects the Australian Geographic ethos that being a conservationist is a way

of life that all should aspire to. There is no specific age limit but it is customary for the Lifetime of Conservation medal to be awarded to an older Australian.

Lifetime of Adventure Award
This is the Society's highest honour and recognises those special Australians who haven't just lived an adventurous life, but who have also given back to Australia and inspired others by their leadership and example. There is no specific age limit but it is customary for the lifetime of adventure medal to be awarded to an older Australian.

The process

Throughout the year, nominations for the Australian Geographic Society Awards are received by the AGS administrator. These nominations may be drawn from sponsorships given out by the AGS or articles in the journal, or come from members of the AGS, AG readers or the general public. The AGS also works closely with conservation charities and organisations to spread our call for nominees far and wide.

Award winners are selected from a list of nominees by the selection panel, made up of members of the AGS Advisory Council, the Adventure Committee and staff of the Australian Geographic journal.