



Annual Call for IMD Awards - 2020

Purpose of IMD Awards

These awards recognize an Inventory and Monitoring Division (IMD) employee, team, or network for an outstanding contribution in one of five categories. Awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge successes, share innovative ideas, and encourage wider adoption of effective practices.

Award Categories

There are five award categories. The scope, intent, and eligibility criteria for each category are described in the sections below. Additional categories may be created in any given year to recognize outstanding work that either cuts across multiple categories or ventures into new terrain.

- [Communication](#)
- [Safety](#)
- [Data Management](#)
- [Partnership and Collaboration](#)
- [Science Excellence](#)

Nomination Process

Nominations are solicited from IMD staff, but any NPS staff can nominate an IMD colleague. Submit nominations between November 3 and December 18 using the [nomination form](#). Submissions must include details that address the evaluation criteria described below.

Review Process

Reviews are coordinated by the Network Council and the IMD Leadership Team after the nomination period closes on December 18. The Leadership Team reviews nominees and selects recipients for the Science Excellence Award and the Partnership and Collaboration Award. The Network Council oversees the creation of a review panel composed of previous recipients and subject matter experts for the Safety Award, Data Management Award, and Communication Award. When the panel concludes their evaluations and made their selections, the Network Council schedules a call with the panel to discuss the outcomes. Outcomes and recommendations are then forwarded to the IMD Leadership Team, along with the original nomination forms and a summary of reasoning for the selections. Final decisions rest

with the IMD Leadership Team, with the understanding that they may select no, one, or multiple recommended award recipients.

Review Panel Members

The peer review panel is composed of members from outside of the Network Council who are not nominees for the awards. Prior award recipients are encouraged to participate. The panel includes specialists (e.g., data managers, ecologists, program managers, or collateral-duty safety officers) who have relevant knowledge or expertise on the award topics. The panel is expected to be interdisciplinary and able to consider nominations from many different perspectives.

Evaluation Criteria

These vary somewhat by award (listed by categories below), but will directly relate to the I&M Division's goals, along with considerations such as:

- Improvements to operational efficiency
- Contributions to team building and esprit de corps
- Applicability to other networks, programs or projects
- Creation or improvement of partnerships or effective public engagement
- Beneficial impacts on park management
- Contributions to scientific advancement

Consideration is given to accomplishments that strongly connect to broader IMD initiatives.

Announcing the Winners

Selections will be announced in February of the following year.

Recognition

The IMD Leadership Team will determine the kind of recognition to provide for awards in any given year (e.g., plaque, monetary award).

Communication Award

Scope of Award

This award recognizes an IMD employee, team, or network for exceptional use of communication methods to convey scientific information to audiences such as park staff, park visitors, the general public, or the scientific community.

This award is intended to

- Recognize outstanding examples of creative, innovative, and effective science communication

- Provide an incentive for exceptional science communication
- Demonstrate IMD's support of science communication to all audiences
- Elevate awareness of the importance of science communication in the work we do
- Demonstrate success in meeting one or more IMD communication goals and outcomes:
 - Our communication
 - Increases science literacy and knowledge of resources
 - Establishes trust in the National Park Service
 - Sparks interest in science and inspires the next generation of scientists
 - Connects people to parks
 - Promotes the value of the natural world and our cultural heritage
 - Promotes conservation and stewardship action
 - Helps management make science-based decisions that are effective and that help ensure resources are unimpaired
 - Inspires the public to care for and respect park resources and the natural world
 - Inspires hope.

Examples of projects or products include

- newspaper or magazine articles, broadcast media
- creative data visualizations, websites, interactive tools
- social media, multimedia, video
- publications, brochures, or other printed materials
- effective processes or procedures (e.g., workflows, meetings, events)
- public presentations

Eligibility Criteria

The persons or projects nominated for this award must demonstrate:

- Creativity, clarity, and resourcefulness
- Results that have a long-term or significant impact on one or more of the following:
 - park resource management
 - network/park relations
 - public understanding of inventory, monitoring, or park resource stewardship
 - dissemination of IMD information to the larger scientific or research community
 - influence on the next generation of scientists and park employees

Safety Award

Scope of Award

This award recognizes an IMD employee, team, or network for outstanding leadership in safety, including: a sizable reduction in staff exposure to risk, innovation in training or techniques that prepare a team to respond to hazards, advancing safety as an integral aspect of NPS workplace culture or contributing to staff wellness, or demonstrated application of operational leadership and emergency response skills in responding to unanticipated emergency situations.

This award is intended to

- Celebrate safety-related actions that proactively reduce and/or respond to staff exposure to risks
- Provide an incentive to maintain a keen awareness of risk management
- Demonstrate IMD's support for staff health and well being

Examples of projects or products include

- Improved network-park communications
- Multi-partner trainings or workshops that advance awareness beyond standard practices
- Integration of improved communication tools into SOPs
- Creative projects that advance awareness of overall health and wellness
- Deep-dive mission analysis outlining specific adjustments to procedures in order to reduce risk exposure
- Project to reduce stress, ergonomic limitations, fatigue or other frequently overlooked aspects of risk
- Changes in monitoring methodology or analysis that reduce risk exposure

Eligibility Criteria

The people or projects nominated for this award must demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Outstanding employee safety and health through improved practices and attitudes.
- Incorporation of employee-driven actions in the recognition and control of hazards.
- Integration of innovative or advanced risk reduction procedures.
- Demonstrable likelihood of reducing accidents.
- Increased managerial and employee commitment toward accident prevention.
- Spirited and creative approach that advances improved awareness.

Data Management Award

Scope of Award

This award recognizes an IMD employee, team, or network for innovative data management methods that contribute to the efficient creation, validation, dissemination, and archiving of the IMD data and information products that are core to our mission.

This award is intended to

- Recognize outstanding examples of innovative, high-quality, and effective data management within compliance guidelines
- Provide incentive for and encourage the further development of improved technical methods
- Share ideas for improving operations among IMD networks

Examples of projects or products include

- Data visualization capabilities, websites, and interactive tools
- New efficient or automated data management processes or procedures
- Improved structuring of data and information products that increases their accessibility and usefulness
- Development of archives to ensure the longevity of IMD data and metadata
- Contributions to nationwide efforts such as the Long Term Data Management project
- Effective implementation of emerging technologies

Eligibility Criteria

The people or projects nominated for this award must demonstrate:

- Originality and innovation
- Results that have a long-term or significant impact on one or more of the following:
 - Attainment of network productivity and efficiency
 - Dissemination of IMD information to the larger scientific and research communities
 - Development of valuable new tools, products, methods, and techniques
 - Permanent retention of monitoring data products
 - Sharing effective methodologies among multiple networks

Partnership and Collaboration Award

Scope of Award

This award recognizes an IMD employee, team, or network for creating and carrying out a collaborative venture that results in significant products or outcomes. The award recognizes the immense value of reaching across administrative, geographic, or professional boundaries in order to solve problems and achieve our shared goals of natural resource science and park stewardship.

This award is intended to

- Contribute to the shift toward a more unified and collaborative culture within NPS
- Encourage bridging traditional divides between disciplines, programs, divisions, or bureaus
- Demonstrate the value that a diversity of perspectives brings to solving resource management problems
- Demonstrate the power of individual initiative in reaching across boundaries and forming new collaboration paths

Examples of products or outcomes include

- Multi-network collaboration to solve a shared problem such as shared SOPs, collaborative development of improved communications, or transfer of techniques
- Innovative collaboration between parks and networks to bridge science and park resource management
- Projects that demonstrate the value of multiple perspectives in tackling complex natural resource challenges
- Coordination among multiple networks and partners on a single analytical product
- Maintenance of regular communication and collaboration among a community of practice that leads to efficiency and productivity
- Monitoring performed in collaboration with local or regional partners in a strategy that supplements the amount and significance of data gathered for a program

Eligibility Criteria

The people or projects nominated for this award must demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Outcomes or results that would not be achievable without collaboration or partnerships
- Innovative collaboration ideas that can be used by other networks or programs
- Individual or network initiative in establishing collaborative work
- Long-term value and applicability of the end results
- Results that help achieve one or more of the I&M goals or the NPS mission

Science Excellence Award

Scope of Award

This award recognizes an IMD employee, collaborator, or network for creative, influential, or innovative contributions to “excellent science” within IMD. Excellent science, in this context, refers to well-designed, relevant, and reproducible IMD inventory, monitoring, or research that addresses the complexities and uncertainties of real-world problems facing NPS managers. The award can be given for an activity, outcome, product, patent, process, or paper.

This award is intended to

- Maintain or increase the use of scientific evidence for resource management in IMD parks
- Bolster the exposure and credibility of place-based science within IMD and NPS
- Recognize outstanding examples of creative, innovative, and novel scientific approaches
- Encourage and provide incentives for development of improved, reproducible, or broadly-applicable scientific methods

Examples of products or outcomes include

- Integration of IMD monitoring data, products, and recommendations into park resource management, planning, or interpretation
- Patent for an invention that improves an aspect of science technology
- Substantial or influential contribution to peer-reviewed scientific literature
- Establishment of communities or work groups to share and expand upon technical methods or expertise
- Innovative techniques for acquiring, analyzing, or sharing data

Eligibility Criteria

The people or projects nominated for this award must demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Monitoring analyses that clarify or improve a decision (i.e., actions taken, investments made) on a significant issue facing national park managers
- Product or actions that contribute to a significant advancement in monitoring or analytical techniques, or appreciably increase the understanding of monitoring approaches
- Results that incorporate data from more than one network or institution and that broaden the meaning of the results beyond one monitoring program
- Sharing research results and inspiring others to undertake further ecological inquiry.
- Innovation in analytical approach or presentation of data with high impact and recognition by peers outside of the NPS
- Outstanding network productivity and quality results
- Innovative development or use of emerging tools, automated sampling approaches, technological solutions or remote sensing techniques