



File Code: 3110/1500

Date: NOV 23 2011

Mr. Jon Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW, Mailstop 3117
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

The 2012 National Smokey Bear Awards nomination period is now open. As you know, this prestigious award program recognizes organizations and/or individuals for outstanding service in wildfire prevention programs. These awards remind us of the hard work our employees and cooperators do to reduce the threat of human-caused wildfires. This award program is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, the Ad Council, and the National Association of State Foresters.

The three nomination categories are Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Award categories recognize outstanding, sustained service of at least two years with significant program impact in wildfire prevention at the national level (Gold), multi-state level (Silver), and statewide level (Bronze).

The nominations will be evaluated against specific criteria that measure the scope, program impact, partnerships, and unique qualities of each nominee. You will find the nomination form enclosed. The nomination form and other program related information are on the following web site: <http://www.smokeybear.com/awards>.

Please send all nominations to Roberta D'Amico, Communication Director with the National Park Service (NPS) Fire and Aviation Program, by close of business February 10, 2012. Ms. D'Amico can also answer any questions you may have about the nomination process; contact her at:

Roberta D'Amico (Roberta_D'Amico@nps.gov)
U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705-5354
Phone: (208) 387-5239; Fax: (208) 387-5250



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Please include all supporting documentation and materials with your nomination package. Electronic nominations will also be accepted. Nomination packages must be complete as they will be evaluated as submitted. Ms. D'Amico will forward all NPS nominations to the Forest Service Fire Prevention Program Manager in Washington, D.C., by close of business February 17, 2012.

Thank you for your continued support of the National Smokey Bear Awards. I look forward to receiving your nominations.

Sincerely,



JAMES E. HUBBARD
Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

cc: Steve Shackleton, Roberta D'Amico, Helene Cleveland