

The AAZK Meritorious Achievement Award

The American Association of Zoo Keepers Meritorious Achievement Award is intended to recognize individuals with a commitment and service to the zoo and aquarium profession, in partnership with the American Association of Zoo Keepers, to provide a quality of life for exotic animals in captivity and/or to recognize a career commitment to conservation of species and habitat on a global platform.

The AAZK Meritorious Achievement Award was established in 2016 by the AAZK Board of Directors and Awards Committee and is awarded to deserving individuals in the twilight of their careers at the annual AAZK National Conference.

Qualifications

- The nominee shall be strongly committed to education, conservation, science and the welfare of animals, and be actively involved in furthering these causes within the zoo and aquarium profession or field of conservation.
- The nominee shall have made outstanding contributions to the zoo and aquarium profession, conservation, science or technology, as represented by scholarly publications and presentations, institutional and association leadership, and/or other tangible and measurable achievements.
- Any person meeting the above descriptions is eligible to be nominated; they may be a current member of AAZK at any membership level, however, the nominee is not required to be a current or past member of AAZK

Nomination Procedure

- Members in good standing with AAZK may petition the Board of Directors of the American Association of Zoo keepers in writing, at the address of the Association, to champion the merits of an individual or program in consideration for nomination in the category of Meritorious Achievement. The nominee shall then be championed by an AAZK Board Member where the nomination shall be confirmed by a majority of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Zoo Keepers.
- Completed nominations (nomination letter and any supporting documents) may be submitted to the AAZK Board of Directors and Executive Director beginning January 1st and no later than the deadline: **MAY 1st** of each year via electronic mail to: Scott.Soldat-Valenzuela@aazk.org.

Selection Procedure

The AAZK Meritorious Achievement Award is conveyed by the Board of Directors and is executed by the Awards Committee.