



General Information

The Coconino County Teacher of the Year (CCTOY) event is the only county-wide teacher recognition program that spotlights the contributions of Coconino County public and charter school teachers. The TOY event recognizes three exceptionally skilled and dedicated public or charter school teachers in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve. Nominees are teachers in their fifth year or more of teaching who have gained the respect and admiration of students, parents, colleagues; and who inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn. Candidates must continue active teaching status through 2016.

Candidates fill out the application which is reviewed by a panel of judges that consist of educators, students, business and community leaders. Three semi-finalists will be selected from submitted applications. Applicants will be notified in March if selected as one of three semi-finalists. The semi-finalists will be interviewed in late March and April as part of the final selection process. Each semi-finalist will be filmed for a three minute brief bio segment to be shown at the awards event. On May 6 two of the semi-finalists will be named Ambassadors for Excellence; the remaining will be named the CCTOY. The event will be at the High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff on May 6 from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The TOY and the two Ambassadors will serve for one year as advocates for the teaching profession in the County. Additionally, the three will automatically be nominated for the Arizona TOY award.

Prizes

- **Coconino County Teacher of the Year (1):** *New Car Leased for One Year from Findlay * \$3,000 Cash Award * Nominated for Arizona TOY * Free Course through Coconino Community College * Participate in the 4th of July Parade *
- **Ambassadors for Excellence (2):** *\$1,500 Cash Award * Nominated for Arizona TOY * Free Course through the Coconino Community College * Participate in the 4th of July Parade *



2015 Coconino County Teacher of the Year Eligibility Requirements

- Valid Arizona teacher certification
- Full-time teacher in Coconino County; must continue active teaching status through 2016
- Spend the majority of the school day in direct instruction to students
- Fifth year or more of teaching
- Teach any grade(s) pre-kindergarten through twelve in a public or charter school in Coconino County

Please be certain you meet the requirements above. If you have questions regarding eligibility, before completing the application, please contact Kim Graves at 928.679.8070 or kgraves@coconino.az.gov.

Application Instructions

- a) Observe page limits and spacing; use at least 12-point, Arial font, and margins no less than 1 inch.
- b) Number the sections and pages; "Candidate Information and Promotion Permission Form" will be page 1.
- c) Head each of the sections 2 - 8 of the application with the referring numbers and bolded title only. Delete the explanation and criteria after the bolded title and insert your responses.
- d) Mail or deliver the original signed application stapled (not bound), printed on white paper to the address on the Candidate Information and Promotion Permission Form. Original application should include **all** of the following: (a) signed Candidate Information and Promotion Permission Form as Page 1; (b) responses to sections 2 - 8; (c) Three signed, one-page letters of support.
- e) Do not include additional materials.
- f) The original signed application must be received in Superintendent of School's Office **by Friday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m.**

NOTE: This is not a "postmarked-by" date; it is a "received-by" date.



Candidate Information and Promotion Permission Form

This signed form will be page 1 of your original application. Refer to Application Instructions” on the preceding page.

Applicant's Name _____
Home Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Phone() _____
E-Mail address _____
School District/Charter Holder _____
School _____
School Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Phone() _____
Major Subject Area (if any) _____ Grade Level(s) _____
Total Years Teaching Experience _____ Years in Present Position _____
Arizona Teacher Certification Number _____

Promotion Permission

I hereby give my permission that any or all of the attached materials or future photographs may be shared with persons interested in promoting the TOY event. I certify that the information provided in this application is truthful and was written by me.

Applicant's Signature

Mail or deliver an original signed application to:
Coconino County Superintendent's Office
2384 N. Steves Blvd.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Must be received by Friday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m.

1. **Candidate Information and Promotion Permission Form**
2. **Educational History and Professional Development Activities** (2 double-spaced typed pages) – 5 points
 - A. Beginning with most recent, list colleges and universities attended including postgraduate studies. Indicate degrees earned and dates of attendance.
 - B. Beginning with most recent, list teaching employment history indicating time period, grade level and subject area.
 - C. Beginning with most recent, list professional association memberships including information regarding offices held and other relevant activities.
 - D. Beginning with most recent, list staff development leadership activity and leadership activity in the training of future teachers.
 - E. Beginning with the most recent, list awards and other recognition of your teaching.

Criteria for scoring: *The teacher possesses a strong academic background appropriate to the grade level and subject(s) s/he teaches. The teacher is an active leader in education through professional development and training activities with current and future teachers. The teacher's involvement in associations, task forces, publications, etc. indicates that s/he is a strong advocate for education. The teacher has received other recognition or awards that illustrate that s/he is highly regarded in the field.*

3. **Professional Biography** (2 double-spaced typed pages) – 5 points

What factors influenced you to become a teacher? Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education. How would you strengthen and improve the teaching profession overall?

Criteria for scoring: *The teacher clearly states factors which influenced him/her to become a teacher. The teacher describes contributions and accomplishments in education in and out of the classroom.*

4. **Philosophy of Teaching** (2 double-spaced typed pages) – 15 points

- A. Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes you an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching.
- B. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?
- C. Describe how your teaching connects to the real world in your community.

Criteria for scoring: *The teacher has a strong and coherent philosophy of education. The examples given are clear and convincing evidence of how the philosophy is demonstrated in the classroom. The teacher's instructional approach is worthy of sharing with other teachers.*

5. Education Issues and Trends (2 double-spaced typed pages) – 15 points

What do you consider to be the major public education issues today?
Address one in depth, outlining possible causes, effects and resolutions.

Criteria for scoring: *The teacher describes current issues facing education today. The teacher's outline indicates a logically developed and persuasive resolution to the issue chosen.*

6. Coconino County Teacher of the Year Message (1 double-spaced typed page) – 10 points

As the 2015 **Coconino County** TOY, you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for the teaching profession in our area. What message would you communicate to your profession and to the general public?

Criteria for scoring: *The teacher presents a concise and compelling message which is appropriate for the teaching profession and the general public.*

7. Arizona Teacher of the Year Message (1 double-spaced typed page) – 10 points

As the 2015 **Arizona** TOY, you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for the teaching profession statewide. What message would you communicate to your profession and to the Arizona general public?

Criteria for scoring: *The teacher presents a concise and compelling message which is appropriate for the teaching profession and the Arizona general public.*

8. Letters of Support (limit three, one-page letters; letters exceeding one-page will not be accepted) – 10 points

Include three, signed one-page letters of support from:

- a) Your superintendent, principal or other district or school administrator;
NOTE: letter from administrator **must** include evidence of your effectiveness in the classroom, i.e., assessment data, anecdotes, etc.
- b) A colleague; and
- c) A student or former student, parent, civic or community leader.

Criteria for scoring: *The three, one-page letters must be signed and should provide evidence of and address the teacher's effectiveness and leadership abilities.*

Criteria for overall application: *In addition to the criteria outlined for each individual question, the panel of judges will consider appearance, content, grammar, spelling, organization and readability in assessing the application. Refer to "Application Instructions".* – 5 points

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Must be received by Friday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m.



2015 Coconino County Teacher of the Year Application Checklist

(This checklist is for your use only; do not include with your application)

- _____ 1. I, along with my principal and district administrators, understand that if chosen as the CCTOY or an Ambassador I will be asked to advocate for education and to promote excellence in the teaching profession.
- _____ 2. All materials have been carefully checked and proofread.
- _____ 3. All essay responses are within the page/font/margin limitations.
- _____ 4. Original application is printed on white paper; no cover, binder, or portfolio has been used.
- _____ 5. No additional materials included with the application.
- _____ 6. Original signed application must include **all** of the following:
 - the signed Candidate Information and Promotion Permission Form
 - responses to Questions 2 – 8 of the application
 - three signed letters of support (not to exceed one-page each)
- _____ 7. The original signed application must be received in the Superintendent of School's Office **by Friday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m.** to:

Coconino County Superintendent's Office
Attn: Kim Graves
2384 N. Steves Blvd.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004