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August 8, 2012

KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS360-12-18

SUBJECT: PER—2012 Earth Team Volunteer Awards

Action required by: September 14, 2012

Purpose. To solicit nominations for the subject awards

Expiration Date. September 30, 2013

The National Earth Team (ET) Volunteer Award Program provides an opportunity to further recognize volunteers, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees, and partners who have made significant contributions to the ET mission.

Currently, nominations are being sought for individuals and groups in Kansas deserving of recognition for service to others in a volunteer capacity. Nominations are due to your area volunteer coordinator no later than close of business on September 14, 2012. Late nominations will not be accepted. No unsolicited material should accompany the nominations (e.g., photos, news articles). Kansas ET award winners will be submitted to National Headquarters to compete for national awards. Below are the award categories, followed by the nomination form for that category (Ctrl + Click to follow the link) and an explanation of the award. All winners at the state level will receive a plaque with a letter from the state conservationist (STC).

[ET Individual Volunteer Award \(Form \[NRCS-PER-036\]\(#\)\)](#): This award recognizes one outstanding volunteer nationally. National winners in this category receive an award and certificate from the Chief.

[ET Group Volunteer Award \(Form \[NRCS-PER-036\]\(#\)\)](#): This award recognizes one outstanding volunteer group nationally. National winners in this category receive an award and certificate from the Chief.

[National Volunteer Service Award Chief's Cup \(Form \[NRCS-PER-037\]\(#\)\)](#): This award is presented by the Chief to the state that most creatively uses volunteers to meet the mission of NRCS. A crystal cup and certificate are presented to the STC at a leadership meeting for winners at the national level.

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Chief's Field Award (Form [NRCS-PER-037](#)): This award recognizes one office located at the field level nationally. Nominees describe how the office utilized volunteer resources and explain the accomplishments of the office due to the assistance of volunteers. If selected at the national level, the winning office receives a marble globe on a wooden stand and certificate.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)/NRCS ET Award (Form [NRCS-PER-039](#)): This award is presented to the most effective volunteer team in a conservation district which demonstrates shared leadership among district officials, NRCS employees, and ET volunteers. National winners receive an award for the district office and a certificate of appreciation, which is presented at the NACD annual meeting.

NRCS Employee ET Award (Form [NRCS-PER-038](#)): This award recognizes one NRCS employee nationally. The national winner receives an award and certificate signed by the Chief.

ET Volunteer Coordinator Award (Form [NRCS-PER-038](#)): This award recognizes one outstanding area or state volunteer coordinator nationally. The national winner receives an award and certificate signed by the Chief.

In addition to the above categories, there is one additional award category outlined below that is specific to Kansas and is not recognized at the national level:

Outstanding Kansas Earth Team District Manager Award (Form [KS-PER-48](#)): This award recognizes one outstanding district manager or clerk. The winner receives a plaque and letter signed by the STC.

Contact: Jan Klaus, State Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator, 785-625-2588 or jan.klaus@ks.usda.gov

(signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist