

2019 Utah Teacher of the Year Program

Guidelines, Timeline, and Application

Background

The classroom teacher is the backbone of the American educational system. No one person has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates the primary learning and instructional environment. It is the mission of the National Teacher of the Year Program to honor our nation's greatest teachers while providing rigorous professional learning for teachers to be leaders and advocates.

The Utah Teacher of the Year Program, presented by Voya Financial, has been run by the Council of Chief State School Officers since 1952.

Every state may nominate a candidate for National Teacher of the Year. The National Teacher is released from classroom duties during the year of recognition to serve as a spokesperson and advocate for the entire teaching profession. The National Teacher of the Year maintains a full schedule of speaking engagements throughout the country, and increasingly the world, before a variety of business, community, and education groups.

Nomination

Each LEA is invited to nominate a candidate. The method and materials used to select the LEA candidate may vary, but we recommend that LEAs use the Utah Application, as it mirrors the National Teacher of the Year Program Guidelines.

Criteria

A candidate for Utah Teacher of the Year is a state-approved or accredited school; prekindergarten through grade twelve, who is planning to continue in an active teaching status.

The Utah Teacher of the Year candidate has the respect and admiration of their colleagues and:

1. Is an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
2. Collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success.
3. Deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large.
4. Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning.
5. Expresses themselves in an engaging and articulate way.

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Selection

A Utah Selection Committee selects four finalists from the nominations received. The finalists participate in individual interviews with the committee in Salt Lake City.

The announcement of the Utah Teacher of the Year will coincide with a banquet in their honor to be held in the fall of 2019.

If a state's candidate is selected as the 2019 National Teacher of the Year, the chief state school officer and the teacher will be notified, on a confidential basis, several weeks in advance of the public announcement. The three finalists not selected and their chief state school officers will receive confidential notification at the same time.

Timeline

By May 30, 2018*	Inform UTOY Program (email robert.austin@schools.utah.gov) of the name of your LEA's candidate, subject and grade level(s) taught, and the name of the candidate's school.
By June 15, 2018*	On-line application from all LEA candidates due.

*You may provide this information to the UTOY Program as soon as you have it.

Application

Page 1 Basic Information

Full Name _____
Preferred Name _____
State _____
Personal Address _____
Personal Phone # _____
Personal Email* _____
School District _____
District Superintendent _____

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District Superintendent Email	_____
School Name	_____
School Principal Name	_____
School Principal Email	_____
School Address	_____
School Phone #	_____
School Email	_____
Subject Area	_____
Grade Level	_____

*The Utah Teacher of the Year Program will correspond with you using your personal email due to security and spam filters on school and district emails. Please be sure it is up to date!

You will also need to attach a headshot (color, portrait orientation, 300 ppi, .jpg format).

USE THIS NAMING CONVENTION:

[LastName_StateAbbreviation_Headshot.jpg](#)

Page 2 Demographic Information

The following information is required, but will have no bearing on your selection. It is collected for informational purposes only and will not be shared with Selection Committee Members. Coordinators will select check boxes of items that apply, and will be able to write any options that are not included.

School Size	_____
District Size	_____
Years of Teaching	_____
Years in Position	_____
Twitter Handle	_____
Facebook Profile	_____
Instagram Profile	_____
Personal Blog Site	_____
Personal Web Site	_____
Other Social Media	_____
Do you speak a language other than English fluently?	_____

Professional Association Memberships (*write in all that apply*)

- NEA
- AFT
- Other (please specify) _____

I am a National Board Certified Teacher.

- Yes
- No
- In Progress

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School Demographics (*select all that apply*)

- Public
- Charter
- Suburban
- Rural
- Urban
- Other (please specify) _____

What is your gender? (*optional*)

- Female
- Male
- Other (please specify) _____

Which category below includes your age? (*optional*)

- 21 - 29
- 30 - 39
- 40 - 49
- 50 - 59
- 60 or older

What is your ethnicity? (*optional*)

- White (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.)
- Black/African American (A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.)
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.)
- Asian/Indian Subcontinent (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.)
- Native American/Alaskan Native (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America [including Central America], and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.)
- Decline to Answer

Page 3 Resume

You will not be able to format this section of your application, so please keep it as simple as possible. We recommend that you enter each item as a separate line of text. Resumes should not exceed two pages. Categories are as follows:

Education
Certifications
Experience
Leadership
Awards and Other Recognition

USE THIS NAMING CONVENTION:

[LastName_StateAbbreviation_Resume.pdf](#)

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Page 4 Professional Biography

Please complete your professional biography in 3rd person, as this will be used in promotional materials for UTOY speaking opportunities and engagements. By completing this section, you agree that your biography and headshot can be used in USBE/UTOY materials. (maximum 250 words)

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Page 5 Response Questions

Respond to the following questions, highlighting your personal story, and why you believe you should be the 2019 Utah Teacher of the Year. Please do not include external links. Maximum word counts are indicated in parenthesis.

1. Describe a content lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage students of all backgrounds and abilities in the learning? How did you influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson or unit? *(maximum 750 words)*

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2. Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in which contributed to the improvement of overall school culture. What was your role, how did you collaborate with others, and what is the status of this project today? Please include evidence of student impact. (*maximum 500 words*)

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3. How do you ensure that education transcends the classroom? Describe specific ways in which you deliberately connect your students with the community. Please include evidence of student impact.
(maximum 500 words)

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4. What do you consider to be a major public education issue today? Describe how you demonstrate being a lifelong learner, leader, and innovator about this issue, both in and outside of the classroom walls.
(maximum 500 words)

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5. As the 2019 Utah Teacher of the Year, you serve as a spokesperson and representative for teachers and students. What is your message? What will you communicate to your profession and to the public?
(maximum 750 words)

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Page 6 Supporting Evidence

Attach 3 recommendations that support why you should be the 2019 Utah Teacher of the Year. At least one of these must be a recommendation from a parent, colleague, administrator, or student and each letter should not exceed one page in length.

[LastName_StateAbbreviation_Recommendation1.pdf](#)

[LastName_StateAbbreviation_Recommendation2.pdf](#)

[LastName_StateAbbreviation_Recommendation3.pdf](#)