

The AAZK Lifetime Achievement Award

The American Association of Zoo Keepers Lifetime Achievement Award is for members of AAZK to recognize an individual's dedicated commitment to the animal care profession over the course of their career with measurable contributions to the zoological community combined with impeccable character, a distinguished record of honorable service to AAZK and/or their institution.

The AAZK Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 1993 by the Awards Committee and the AAZK Board of Directors and is awarded to deserving members in the twilight of their careers, in early retirement, or posthumously, during the annual AAZK National Conference.

Qualifications

- The nominee shall be a current member of AAZK in good-standing at the time of nomination or in the case of a posthumous nomination, the nominee shall have been a member of AAZK, meeting the following criteria:
 - The Nominee shall be a Professional Member of AAZK for a **minimum of twenty (20) years**;
 - Or;
 - The nominee shall be employed for a minimum of twenty (20) years of **combined service** within the zoo or aquarium profession with **initial employment** at the keeper/aquarist level for ten (10) years, with subsequent supervisory, management, educational or specialized employment, achieving the minimum of twenty years in the animal care profession.

The nominee shall be nominated by two of their peers who have also been employed at the same zoo, aquarium or related facility at the same time that the nominee was employed there. Supporting nominations may be submitted by personnel from the institution(s) where the nominee was previously employed.

Nomination Procedure

- Complete the nomination form which includes the nominee by name and position and years of service in the professional field. Provide the institution's name, address, phone and Person of Authority where the nominee is employed at the time of retirement. Provide additional recommendations of peers or colleagues.
- List and **document** outstanding achievements: exhibits, population management, education, project participation, papers, etc., and AAZK involvement on a local and/or national level.

- Describe extracurricular activities outside of zoo, aquarium or related facility: working with conservation groups, animal-related youth groups, rehabilitation wildlife officials, etc.
- Paragraph on why the nominee fits the criteria.
- Provide references or endorsements to support the nomination.
- Completed nomination packet (nomination form and supporting documents) may be submitted beginning January 1st and no later than the deadline: **MAY 1st** of each year.

Verification of the nomination requires a signature from the Director/CEO of the facility or their representative.

Selection Procedure

The Awards Committee members will independently review each nominee.