

# The AAZK Nico van Strien Leadership in Conservation Award

The purpose of the American Association of Zoo Keepers Nico van Strien Leadership in Conservation Award is to recognize outstanding AAZK member-initiated contributions to the conservation of wildlife and their habitats. It will be presented to an individual AAZK member or a team of AAZK members in good standing who have showed a dedication to the stewardship of the natural world through the creation, continuation, and/or promotion of a conservation project that is not the primary part of their job. AAZK members must often find pockets of their own personal time to nurture personal conservation efforts. These selfless efforts which make a positive difference to local ecosystems and inspire communities to action, are a fundamental part of a zoo professional's philosophy.

## Qualifications

- The nominee shall be a Professional Member of AAZK, in good standing, associated with a North American Zoological Institution, aquarium or related facility.
- The project identified in the application shall protect, study, and/or promote stewardship of the natural world.
- The nominee shall be nominated by his or her peers who have witnessed first-hand the nominee's dedication to the associated conservation project.

## Nomination Procedure

- Complete the nomination form which includes the nominee's name(s), position, institution's name, address, email address, and years of service of the nominee in the field.
- In 200 words or less, describe why this individual deserves this recognition.
- List the name and contact of the nominating member and the nominee's immediate supervisor for the verification of the nomination.
- Completed nomination packet (nomination form and supporting documents) may be submitted beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> and no later than the deadline: **MAY 1st** of each calendar year.

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

## Selection Procedure

The AAZK Conservation Committee will review each nominee in consultation with the Awards Committee. The Board Oversight for Conservation shall cast a deciding vote in the instance of a tie.

**The first-place recipient(s) of this award receives the Leadership in Conservation Award plaque and \$500.00. Second place applicant will be identified during the review process and will be given a Certificate of Recognition in Conservation Award with a description of their project.**