SC Project Learning Tree

2026 Jerry L. Shrum Leadership in Education Award

2026 AWARD

SC Project Learning Tree is seeking nominations for the Jerry L. Shrum **Leadership in Education Award.** The winner will be honored at the 2026 Forestry Association of SC Annual Meeting.

PURPOSE

To recognize individuals or organizations who have made **positive contributions to advance PLT programs and initiatives at the state or regional level.** The award helps bring to light the many accomplishments of PLT's network in advancing environmental literacy, stewardship and career pathways using trees and forests as windows on the world. It seeks to highlight compelling stories about the impact of PLT on youth, educators, and communities.

RECIPIENT

Nominations may be for **individuals or organizations** who:

- use PLT to teach students in formal (e.g. schools) or non-formal settings (e.g. nature centers, 4-H, Scouts, etc.);
- help educators learn about PLT and implement PLT in their classrooms through professional development, funding, or planning;
- have dedicated their time to shaping SC's PLT program; or championed PLT programs and initiatives in their communities or region.

Award recognition

Awardees will receive a $100-value award, complimentary registration and overnight accommodations to attend the 2026 Forestry Association of SC (FASC) Annual Meeting November 11-13 in Greenville, all-expense-paid opportunity to attend the SC Teachers' Tour to learn more about sustainable forestry in SC, recognition in local and statewide media and publications, and a chance to participate in the National Leadership in Education award program. Awardees will be honored at the 2026 FASC Annual Meeting.

Nomination selection

Self-nominations as well as nominations by others are encouraged. A review panel (comprised of the SC PLT Coordinators and the SC PLT Steering Committee) reviews nominations and selects the winner.

Questions?

Matt Schnabel, SC PLT Coordinator
mschnabel@scfc.gov
803-896-8892

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE SFI-00001 | PROJECT LEARNING TREE®

PLT is an initiative of SFI

2026 AWARD

NOMINATION PROCEDURE & DEADLINE

Nominations should be sent via e-mail to Matt Schnabel, at mschnabel@scfc.gov

Deadline to submit:

Monday, July 20, 2026.

CRITERIA

Nominees will be judged on their leadership and outstanding achievements in designing, promoting, and/or implementing PLT programs and initiatives between January 2024 and June 2025 (with historical context also considered) **based on one or more of the following criteria:**

Leadership - Grow PLT's reach by engaging state and/or local community members and partners, supporting PLT programs and initiatives, facilitating workshops, presenting PLT at virtual conferences, publishing work to share the impact of PLT, etc.

Diversity - Lead, support, and encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion through development or implementation of PLT programs and initiatives that serve people of color, indigenous, and underserved audiences.

Resilience - Demonstrate flexibility and innovation in delivering PLT in the face of rapid changes in the education landscape.

Relevancy - Lead or support efforts to increase PLT's relevance among formal and nonformal educators.

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

Self-nominations as well as nominations by others are encouraged. Partners may help the nominee prepare the nomination. The nominee or the nominator can complete the nomination form. All materials become the property of PLT.

Complete the nomination form that can be up to four (4) single-spaced pages in length, excluding photos, publications, or other supplemental materials. Please do not include resumes or letters of recommendation.

Supplemental Materials - Photos, publications, and other supplemental materials that illustrate the nominee's accomplishments are encouraged.

By submitting a nomination form, you expressly grant SFI and PLT unlimited permissions to use, re-use, publish, and re- publish photos and information contained in the nomination form about the nominee for purposes of advertising, public relations, marketing, trade, or any other lawful use both printed and online.

RECOGNIZE A PLT LEADER IN YOUR STATE!

2026 SC PLT Jerry L. Shrum LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARD

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE SFI-00001 | PROJECT LEARNING TREE®

PLT is an initiative of SFI

Nominator Contact Information: **Information about the person submitting the nomination form:**

Name: .....

Email: ..... **Phone number:** .....

Date Submitted: .....

Nominee Contact Information: **Name, position/title (if applicable), organization, email, and phone number of individual or organization being nominated. If nominating an organization, please include a designated point of contact.**

Summary: **No more than 250 words highlighting exemplary contributions to PLT at the state, regional, or national level. (Please note: PLT will use this information when communicating about the nominee.)**

2026 SC PLT Jerry L. Shrum LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARD

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE SFI-00001 | PROJECT LEARNING TREE®

PLT is an initiative of SFI

Qualifications: Highlight PLT-specific outstanding accomplishments that correspond to one or more criteria detailed in the Call for Nominations, i.e., Leadership, Diversity, Resilience, and/or Relevancy. Describe the accomplishments of your nominee, the involvement of key partners, and quantify results such as outcomes and impacts on your PLT state program. If the nominee has achievements in more than one area, list the most important accomplishment first, and then in order of highest priority.

Utilize up to three additional pages as needed to detail qualifications.
Your nomination form should be no more than four pages total, excluding supplemental materials.