

Important Information for All Applicants

Membership in TXCSS

- All applicants for one of TXCSS' Special Awards are expected to be members in good standing in TXCSS at the time of their nomination.
- *Billy Sills, Higher Education and Outstanding Teacher Award* applicants will certify that they were a member of TXCSS the year prior to their application and will continue to be a member for the remainder of the current calendar year.
- *Nova Award* applicants will certify that they are a member of TXCSS at the time of their nomination and will continue to be a member for the remainder of the current calendar year.

Original Lesson Plan

- All applicants should understand that they are giving Texas Council for the Social Studies permission to publish the original lesson plan submitted, as it deems appropriate in publicizing the award and sharing best practices with other educators.

NCSS Teacher of the Year

- All applicants should understand that Outstanding Teachers of the Year and NOVA Award winners for the Texas Council of Social Studies are expected to submit their application to NCSS for the NCSS Teacher of the Year Award. Information regarding this process will be communicated to me in the Spring following the Award Ceremony at the annual TXCSS Fall Conference.

Choosing the Award Recipient

- All applications for TXCSS Special Awards are scored on a rubric by members of the Special Awards Committee. Once the scoring rubrics have been returned to the Special Awards Chair, they will be tabulated. All applicants will be notified of their status around Labor Day of the current year.
- The Rubrics used to score the applications can be access at this [link](#)
- *A first-time nomination not selected for an award will automatically be considered for one additional year in that same category without re-nomination.*