

# Tacoma Astronomical Society Awards

## *Rules and Guidelines*

### **Astronomer of the Year Award**

The Astronomer of the Year Award is given annually to a member of the Tacoma Astronomical Society who has made a significant contribution to the field of amateur astronomy and to the Society during the current year.

The selection is made by the current years membership, each person voting for the member of their choice. Candidates are not nominated from the floor. The member receiving the most votes shall be declared Astronomer of the Year. In case of a tie, both (or more) members shall be accorded the honor. The winner shall not also be the recipient of the President's Award (see the criteria for selection as described under President's Award).

The winner(s) name is inscribed on a plate on the Astronomer of the Year plaque and is kept by the winner(s) for the upcoming year until it is relinquished to the next year's winner.

- A. The Astronomer of the Year shall be given annually to an Adult and a Student Member of the Society.
- B. The award shall be given to those members who have made a significant contribution to the hobby of amateur astronomy and to the betterment of the Tacoma Astronomical Society.
- C. The winners shall be selected by a vote of the membership, utilizing a ballot provided by mail. All votes must be received by the date of the annual Christmas Party. **There will be no nominations for these awards**, only the individual, collective votes of the members shall determine the winners, thereby maintaining the element of surprise to the winners.
- D. The Astronomer of the Year Award winners are ineligible for the President's Award.
- E. The award plaque shall be presented at the January General Meeting.

### **President's Award**

The President's Award is given annually to a member of the Tacoma Astronomical Society who has made a significant contribution to the Society during the current year.

The selection is made by the current President and by them alone. The winner **shall not** also be the recipient of the Adult Astronomer of the Year or the Student Astronomer of the Year.

The winner shall receive a permanent, take-home plaque suitability engraved.

- A. The President's Award shall be given annually to an Adult, **or** to a Student member of the Tacoma Astronomical Society.
- B. The award shall be given to a member who has made a notable contribution to the betterment of the Tacoma Astronomical Society.
- C. The selection of the President's Award winner shall be determined solely by the then current President of the Tacoma Astronomical Society.
- D. Members who may be considered for the President's Award include;
  - a. Runners-up in the Astronomer of the Year Awards balloting.
  - b. Members who received votes in the Astronomer of the Year balloting.
  - c. Any member of the society fulfilling the requirements for selection.
- E. The award plaque shall be presented at the January General Meeting.

### **Tacoma Astronomical Society Scholarship Award**

It was the findings of the Tacoma Astronomical Society Scholarship Committee that the Tacoma Astronomical Society Scholarship Award be made available to successful applicants after application to the Board of Trustees under the following terms and conditions.

- A. The annual dollar amount to be determined by the Tacoma Astronomical Society Board of Trustees. This committee recommends a \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) award amount to be made to successful candidates in receipt of the scholarship award.
- B. This committee recommends generating the award funds by virtue of percentages from membership dues and donations totaled from the previous year. This committee also recommends allowing unassigned award money to roll over into consecutive years thereby producing multiple yearly awards as applicable.
- C. Recommend one award per year unless additional awards are generated as per item B above.
- D. The Tacoma Astronomy Society Board of Trustees will determine the proper distribution of award monies to the school or to the individual awarded.

- E.** The Scholarship Award Committee shall consist of current Tacoma Astronomical Society Board of Trustee members.
- F.** Applicants must be members in good standing of the Tacoma Astronomical Society for not less than one year.
- G.** Applicants must submit an application for the Scholarship Award and a letter of request to the Tacoma Astronomical Society Board of Trustees by no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. The letter of request should include the applicant's answer to the following two questions:
  - a. Why should you be awarded this scholarship?
  - b. How will you use this award money?
- H.** Applications must contain the signatures of two sponsors who are members in good standing of the Tacoma Astronomical Society for no less than one year and not related to the applicant.