

2019 Montana Teacher of the Year

Application, Nomination Form, and Program Information

The mission of the Montana Teacher of the Year Program is to elevate student success by empowering classroom innovation and enhancing pathways to teacher leadership.

A+ The TOY program elevates student success by celebrating teachers who honor individual student strengths and each child's unique abilities.

A+ The TOY program empowers classroom innovation by recognizing teachers who are responsive to the complex realities that define Montana's diverse and unique classrooms across the state.

A+ The TOY program enhances pathways to teacher leadership by creating teacher ambassadors at the local, state, and national level to connect classrooms to the community.

Selection Process

The Montana Teacher of the Year (MT TOY) Program is part of the National Teacher of the Year Program conducted by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), of which Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction is a member.

The MT TOY is chosen from a group of ten regional teachers of the year. The regional teachers of the year are selected by committees in each of the nine Montana Association of School Superintendent regions and an American Indian educator chosen by the Montana Indian Education Association's Awards Committee to ensure geographic and cultural diversity.

The ten finalists will be reviewed by a statewide committee of diverse stakeholders to narrow the pool to three semi-finalists who will be invited to interview in-person with a different committee to select the finalist. The TOY will be announced during a recognition ceremony at the Montana Capitol each October.

The MT TOY will then compete at the national level to become CCSSO's National TOY. **The MT TOY MUST be willing to participate in the National TOY Program.** For more information on the National TOY, please visit <https://www.ccsso.org/national-teacher-of-the-year>.

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Selection Process (continued)

All active Montana K-12 teachers who are making a positive difference for students in their community are encouraged to apply.

Teachers can self-nominate by filling out an application or any member of the public can fill out a nomination form for a Montana teacher that they feel is qualified. The OPI will then reach out to the nominated teacher and ask that they complete an application.

- **Nomination forms are due to the Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Tim Tharp by May 1, 2018.**
- **Applications are due by June 1, 2018.**
- **They can be emailed to tim.tharp@mt.gov.**

For more information about the MT TOY Program, please visit: opi.mt.gov.

Timeline

<i>Deadlines</i>	<i>Activity</i>
February 1, 2018	Applications open and nominations are accepted by the OPI
May 1, 2018	Deadline for nominations to be sent to Dr. Tharp
June 1, 2018	Deadline for applications to be submitted to Dr. Tharp
June 1 to July 15, 2018	Regional nominating committees will make selections for the 10 regional teachers of the year
Early-September 2018	Superintendent Arntzen will announce regional teacher of the year nominees through local school celebrations
Mid-September 2018	The first statewide selection committee will narrow the field to three finalists
Early- October 2018	The three semi-finalists will be invited to interview in-person with a different committee to select the 2019 Montana Teacher of the Year
Mid-October 2018	The 2019 Montana Teacher of the Year will be announced during a reception at the Montana Capitol
November 1, 2018	The National Teacher of the Year application is due to CCSSO

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Application

Basic Information

Full Name

Preferred Name

Address/City/State/ZIP

Phone Number

Email Address

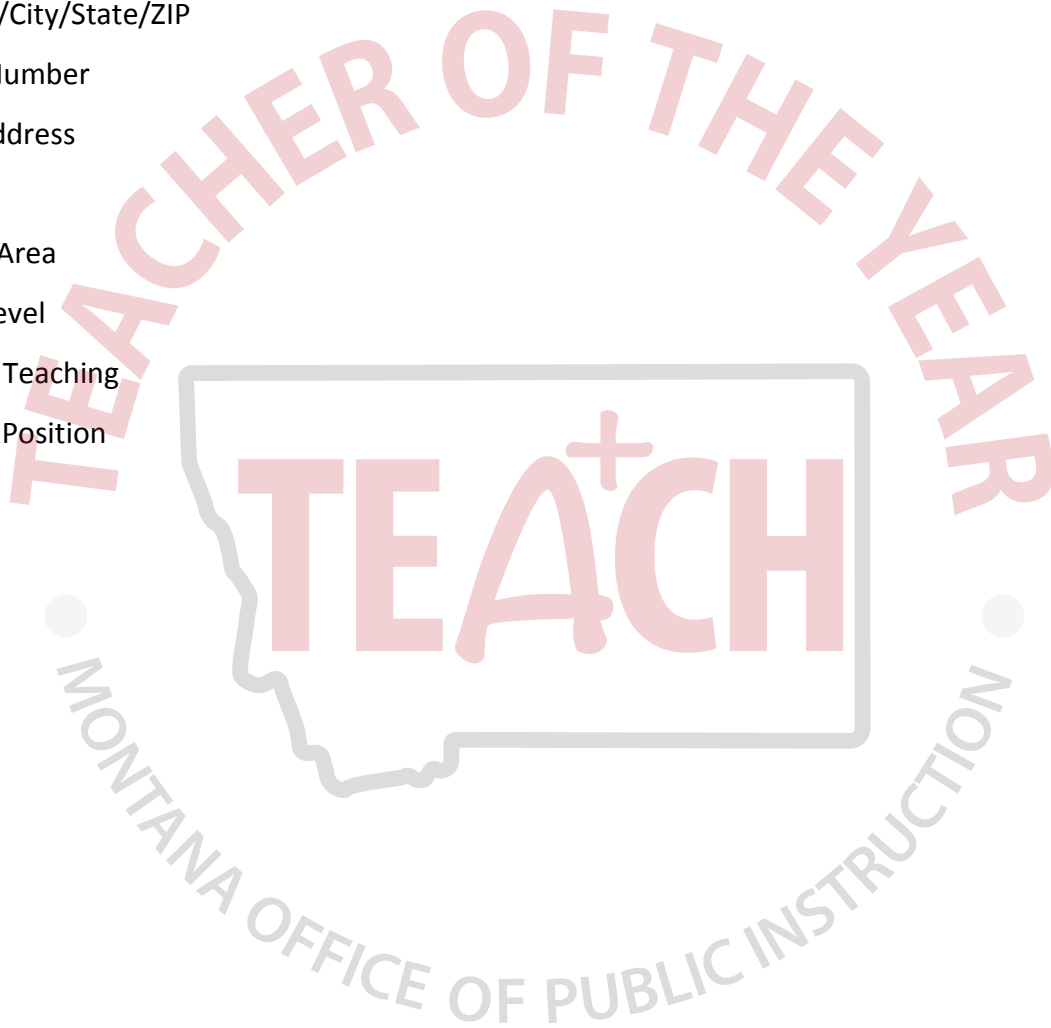
School

Subject Area

Grade Level

Years of Teaching

Years in Position



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Professional Associations

Please list all professional associations to which you belong

Resume Link

Please keep it as simple as possible. Resumes should not exceed two pages. Categories are as follows:

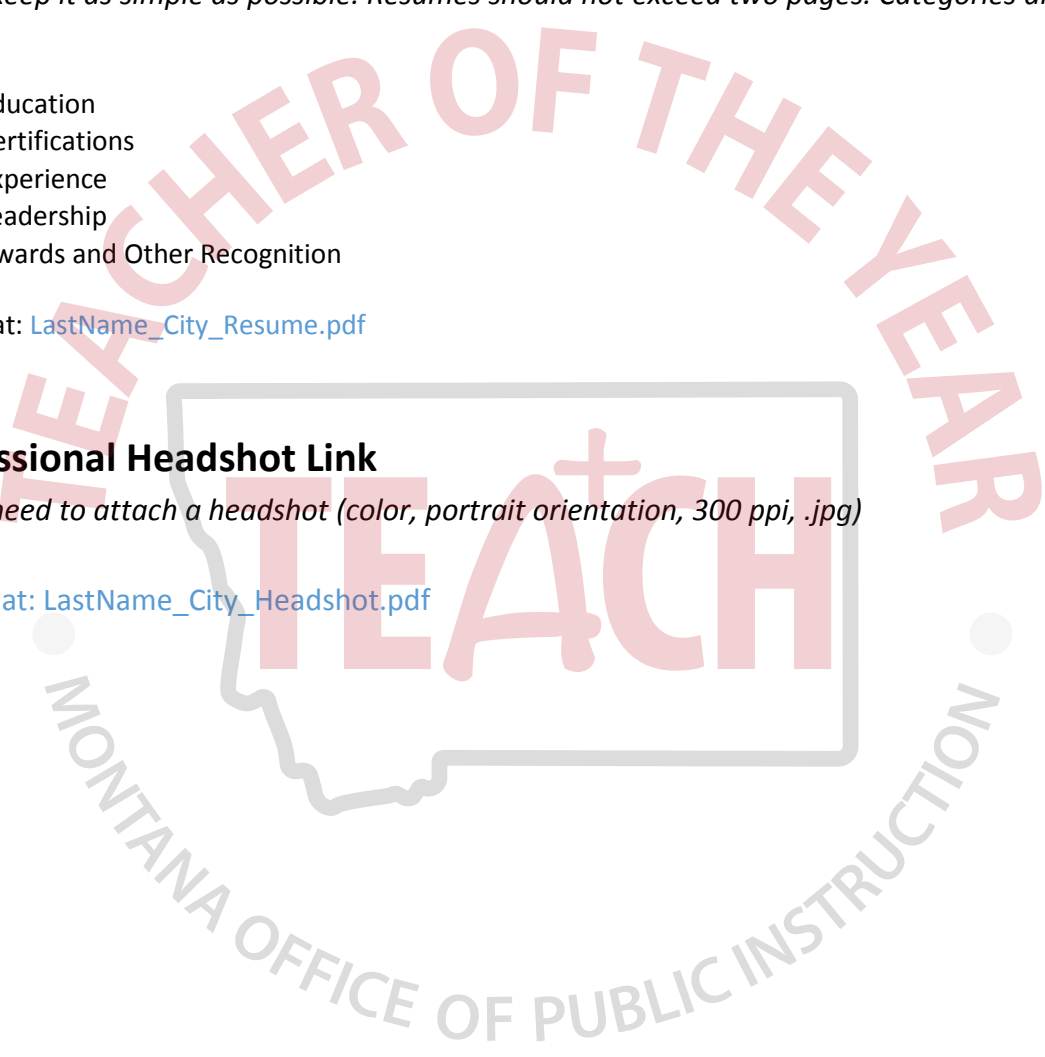
- Education
- Certifications
- Experience
- Leadership
- Awards and Other Recognition

File Format: [LastName_City_Resume.pdf](#)

Professional Headshot Link

You will need to attach a headshot (color, portrait orientation, 300 ppi, .jpg)

File Format: [LastName_City_Headshot.pdf](#)



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Professional Biography

Please complete your professional biography in third person, as this will be used in promotional materials. By completing this section, you agree that your biography and headshot can be used publicly. (maximum 250 words)



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Response Questions

Respond to the following questions, highlighting your personal story of positively influencing Montana students, and why you believe you should be the 2019 Montana Teacher of the Year. Please do not include external links. Maximum word counts are indicated in parenthesis. Include your responses to each question as one attachment in a Word Document.

1. Describe a lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage all students in the learning and how did that learning influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson or unit? *(maximum 750 words)*
2. Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in which contributed to the improvement of overall school culture. What was your role, how did you involve others, and where is this project today? Please include evidence of student impact. *(maximum 500 words)*
3. How do you ensure that education transcends the classroom? Describe specific ways in which you connect your students and the community. Please include evidence of student impact. *(maximum 500 words)*
4. What do you consider to be a major public education issue today? Describe why this is important to you, and how you are leading from your classroom. *(maximum 500 words)*
5. As the 2019 Montana Teacher of the Year, you serve as a spokesperson and representative for Montana teachers and students. What is your message? What will you communicate to your profession and to the public? *(maximum 750 words)*

File Format: [LastName_City_ResponseQs.pdf](#)

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Supporting Evidence

Attach 3 recommendations that support why you should be the 2019 Montana Teacher of the Year. At least one of these must be a recommendation from a parent, colleague, administrator, or student and each letter should not exceed one page in length.

File Format:

[LastName_City_Recommendation1.pdf](#)

[LastName_City_Recommendation2.pdf](#)

[LastName_City_Recommendation3.pdf](#)

