



Helpful Tips for Submitting a Golden Goose Award Nomination

Nomination and Award Process

Nominations to the Golden Goose Award (GGA) can be submitted at any time by an individual or organization. For full consideration in an annual award cycle, we encourage nominations to be submitted by mid-December, so they are ready for the selection committee to review early in the new year. The GGA selection committee annually reviews and considers all submitted applications in January/February. After the selection committee's review, award staff review the advanced nominations, conduct additional research (which often includes interviews with nominators and/or nominees). During the spring months, award staff finalize the awardees and award stories. In the summer months, awardees engage with award staff to review the award story and are filmed by the video production team for the annual GGA documentary video. In September, GGA holds an annual award ceremony in Washington, DC with the awardees, members of congress and their staffs, distinguished guests, and the general public.

Below we have outlined information required for the submission of a GGA nomination and some potentially helpful tips and questions to consider when filling out each section of the application. Should you have questions about a nomination or anything else related to the award, our award staff are always here to help! Please reach out to info@goldengooseaward.org with any questions or feedback.

[SUBMIT NOMINATIONS HERE](#)

Useful Resources

Full outline of Nomination Criteria and Eligibility Requirements

<https://www.goldengooseaward.org/general-nomination>

Previous Award Stories

<https://www.goldengooseaward.org/awardees>

Previous Award Documentary Videos

<https://www.goldengooseaward.org/video>

Nomination Information

Title of Nomination

Give your story a catchy title. Examples from past award stories: “A Llama Named Winter;” “Implicit Bias, Explicit Science;” “The Sex Life of the Screwworm Fly;” “The Honeybee Algorithm”.

Funding Source(s)

List all federal agencies (and any other notable sources) which provided funding related to the work in the research project.

Nominator Information

GGA encourages anyone with an idea or story to submit a nomination! In many instances (though not a requirement), the nominator can be a resource for the award committee to either connect to the proposed nominees or can help provide validation of the award story.

First Name:

Last Name:

Title/Position:

Affiliation:

Email:

Phone:

Nominee Information

GGA nominees come from all types of backgrounds! Past awardees have been retired or mid-career researchers, early-career researchers, research fellows/staff, graduate and undergraduate students, to name a few. As you identify a nominee(s), consider who was involved directly in the research and their connection to federal funding. In cases where there are multiple individuals involved, we encourage you to think through who is central to the story and who helped in significant ways to advance the work.

First Name:

Last Name:

Title/Position:

Affiliation:

Email:

Phone:

Additional Nominees?

Include all nominee information outlined above for all additional nominees.

First Name:

Last Name:

Title/Position:

Affiliation:

Email:

Phone:



Response to Nomination Criteria

1. Describe the specific nature of the research conducted by the nominated individual(s), including the specific federal agencies that supported their work. *

A good nomination will exhibit the high quality of the research project and detail what led to a major transformational scientific discovery and/or technological advance.

When completing this section, it may be useful to consider the following:

- Introduce us to those involved in the research project.
 - Establish a time frame – inclusive of initial work, discovery, how long it all took, context for the time in which this occurred, if relevant.
 - Highlight the scientific process of hypothesis testing, learning from experience, failures, replication, and creativity.
 - What was the goal of the initial research? What made it unique or not unique? Who was it funded by?
 - What went wrong? Was anything disappointing?
 - Other areas that may be worth highlighting (depending on the story and what's relevant): unique qualities of the researchers themselves; the value of mentorship; the value of immigrants; the importance of federal funding and how a research project benefited from federal investment in their research.
2. The Golden Goose Award recognizes silly-sounding, serendipitous, and surprising research that has contributed to society. Explain how the research appeared unusual, obscure, sounded “funny” and/or could have been viewed as having questionable value at the time it was originally funded. *

A good nomination story will include an element of serendipity or surprise, a sense that the research is unusual or obscure or sounds “funny.” Good “Goosey” stories have also come from unexpected partnerships, research discoveries that were serendipitous in nature, and research that was ultimately applied in a very different way than originally anticipated when the research was conducted.

When completing this section, it may be useful to consider the following:

- Is there a sense that the research is unusual or obscure or sounds “funny” in some way?
- Was an idea initially ridiculed or went against general understanding in a research field that something “wouldn’t work?”
- And/Or is there a sense that the project did not have a clear societal application at its outset?



3. Explain how the results from the particular research were unexpected, unforeseen and/or serendipitous in nature. *

A Golden Goose Award nomination ultimately must be a compelling story that is worthy of being shared across a broad public audience. A good story will clearly make the case for the impact to U.S. society or economy and why the federal government should continue to fund and grow funding for basic scientific research.

When completing this section, it may be useful to consider the following:

- Can you identify an element of serendipity or surprise in the project?
- Did the researcher(s) expect their work to lead to a certain understanding, discovery, or advancement? Is that what ultimately happened?
- If the research followed along a pretty straightforward path of expectedness, was the impact or eventual use of the research unexpected?
- If federal funding did not support this research, would the discovery or advancement have occurred at the same pace? Would it have slowed down the discovery and impact? Would a discovery even have been possible?

4. Describe the economic, societal and/or transformations scientific impact of the research. *

A good nomination will illustrate how the research project has greatly contributed in some way to society, the economy, and there is clear evidence of the research's impact. "Impact" can include any number of outcomes ranging from job creation to improvements in health/medicine or other social issues.

When completing this section, it may be useful to consider the following:

- How did this research make a difference?
- Was the research initially ridiculed but turned out to be valuable?
- How is the impact measured?
- Why is federal funding important? If this wasn't funded, what would have happened or what knowledge would we be without today?

Additional References

It is helpful to list here any outside information which helps to validate the story. This includes research publications, funding award information, news articles, video of awardees explaining their work, or any other materials that help to describe the 'story' behind the research of the nominated individual(s).

