



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## January 2014 Archeology E-Gram Special Edition

### Call for Nominations: the John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in NPS Archeology

NPS archeologists created the John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in National Park Service Archeology to honor the distinguished career of Dr. John L. Cotter and his pioneering contributions to professional archeology within the National Park System. This unofficial award was established to inspire student and professional archeologists to continue Dr. Cotter's model of excellence in scientific archeology. The award recognizes the archeological accomplishments of NPS staff or a partnership researcher within a unit or units of the National Park System.

The Cotter Award recognizes **two categories** of achievement:

1. **Project.** Eligible projects may be a single fixed-year activity or a multi-year effort with sequential phases for inventory, excavation, testing, mitigation, planning, or collection analysis regarding submerged or terrestrial park archeological resources. Focused symposia, multiagency workshops or topical conferences; publications about park archeological resource issues; and outstanding outreach to public audiences and/or descendant communities are eligible also. A combination of these activities may contribute to the nomination. A nomination is usually submitted toward the conclusion of the endeavor or upon its completion. If not NPS funded, the project must contribute to the field unit's cultural resource strategic or management plan. Any NPS employee or non-NPS professional archeologist not directly affiliated with the project may make nominations. Members of the Cotter Award selection committee may not submit nominations.
2. **Professional Achievement.** Open to candidates with demonstrated long-term service in the NPS, including those who are senior career still-practicing professionals, recently retired, recently deceased (posthumous recognition to their family/colleagues/home parks), and who have recently left after a long period of service. Eligible nominations shall include evidence for the following:
  - a. a history of excellent scientific work with focus on innovation in NPS archeology. This can be archeological (e.g., new methods, new technologies, new areas of research, etc.), or strategic (e.g., promoting innovation within the Service in how archeology is done, resources are managed, sites are protected, ways that stakeholders are valued and their contributions included, ways that funds are obtained, etc.).
  - b. a track record of excellent resource stewardship as part of NPS duties. Nominations must provide specific examples of good stewardship within broad, career-long patterns.
  - c. Clear evidence that the candidate has put into practice the notion that taxpayer-funded archeology is done for the broad public good, including evidence of repeated, reliable, and significant contributions to the dissemination of archeological knowledge to the public for the purpose of resource interpretation and/or the purpose of building the public capacity for general cultural resource stewardship. Examples may include public participation on excavations, publications geared towards general audiences, and inclusion of descendant communities. Outreach to multiple, diverse publics will be noted.
  - d. Evidence of career achievements in professional outreach, dissemination, and communication to the non-NPS archeology sector through repeated, reliable, and significant contributions (examples may include peer-reviewed journal publications, book publications, teaching, workshops, conferences, symposia).

Each year, the Cotter Award Selection Committee shall evaluate each category of nominations. The Selection Committee shall decide if the Cotter Award shall be given under one, the other, or both, categories depending on the quality and number of nominations in each category.

***Please submit nominations as follows no later than February 28, 2014.***

Completed nomination packages for the Cotter Award should be submitted via the new NPS Awards Nomination portal, <http://share.inside.nps.gov/sites/WFM/Awards/SitePages/Home.aspx>. You can fill out the form and attach documents there. If an electronic submission poses an extreme hardship, you may submit a hard copy nomination package before the deadline to:

Ebonee Mayo-Mitchell, Acting NPS Awards Program Coordinator National Park Service Division of Human Resources  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Attn: Cotter Award Nomination

*Do not submit packages to any other NPS program office.* As part of the new procedures, all nomination packages will now be collected in the WASO Human Resources Office and then distributed to the appropriate program office with oversight for each NPS Service-level award for consideration and selection.

***Content and Format***

Nominations for the Cotter Award should include a cover sheet with the following:

1. Name and contact information of Nominee
2. Name and contact information of Nominator
3. Type of Nomination (Project or Cumulative Achievement)

In addition to the cover sheet, supporting information in no more than six pages of double-spaced 12-point font text. Up to three illustrations, photos, or figures may accompany the submission, in jpeg or pdf format. It is recommended that nominations address the following elements of eligibility, with supporting details:

4. For a **Project** Nomination:
  - a. Name of Project and years conducted
  - b. Type of project (e.g., explorative fieldwork, laboratory analysis/technology, collections management, professional activity such as workshops and symposia, and dissemination/public outreach)
  - c. Park or program that benefitted from the project
  - d. Exemplary, multidisciplinary anthropological research design with integrated testable inquiries and data from supporting disciplines, addressing park management and scientific objectives
  - e. Description of involvement of students who performed work elements that contributed to project goals
  - f. Evidence of thorough scientific methods, technologies and appropriate specialists' studies which are integrated with curatorial standards to meet project goals

- g. Components of public education program to share results and benefits with local populations
  - h. Evidence of pro-active consultation or involvement with affiliated indigenous communities and/or other communities with associations to the project area
  - i. Evidence of dissemination of project results through presentations, reports, events or electronic media.
5. For a **Professional Achievement** Nomination:
- a. Description of excellent scientific work in archaeology and evidence of innovation in practice of the discipline
  - b. Park(s) or program(s) that benefitted from the project
  - c. Descriptive evidence of excellent resource stewardship, with selected case studies showing specific examples
  - d. Description of broad-based public benefit activities, such as repeated, reliable, and significant contributions to the dissemination of archeological knowledge to diverse publics and stakeholders, including involvement with indigenous communities and/or other communities
  - e. Clear evidence that the candidate has significantly contributed to the dissemination of archeological knowledge to the non-NPS professional archeology sector

Please Note: If the nominator is not an archeologist you may wish to include one on your writing team; it makes for a stronger nomination, especially in the scientific areas.

### **The Award**

Nominations will be forwarded from Washington DC to the five-person Cotter Award Committee, who will make the selection. The Committee Chair will present the award at an annual meeting of NPS archeologists or in another venue as appropriate. The recipient of the award will make a presentation of approximately 30 minutes about the project recognized by the award. The recipient of the award will be contacted by the Chief Archeologist as soon as possible to facilitate and arrange participation in the Award presentation.

**Contact:** Cari Kreshak, Cotter Award Committee Chair, phone (808)228-5334; email [cari\\_kreshak@nps.gov](mailto:cari_kreshak@nps.gov)

*Projects in Parks* is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in national parks. The full reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* web page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm> or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram*.

*Archeology E-Gram*, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the NPS and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page [www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the NPS Archeology Program website.

**Contact:** Karen Mudar at [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for *Projects in Parks*, and to subscribe.