Prizes

The 2023 prize applications are closed.

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**DPS-Sponsored Prizes**

The [Gerard P. Kuiper Prize](#) [1] honors outstanding contributions to the field of planetary science.


The [Harold Masursky Award](#) [4] acknowledges outstanding service to planetary science and exploration.

The [Carl Sagan Medal](#) [5] recognizes and honors outstanding communication by an active planetary scientist to the general public.


**Previous Winners**
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Nomination

The Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) of the American Astronomical Society awards its named prizes annually (or less frequently).

All DPS members are encouraged to submit nominations for DPS prizes.

For purposes of these prizes, planetary science shall be understood to refer to the multidisciplinary study of our Solar System, as well as other planetary systems, excluding work dealing primarily with the Sun, Earth, or other stars.

The final responsibility for determining the award frequency and for selecting the recipients lies with the DPS Committee.

Anyone (except DPS Officers, Committee members and Prize Subcommittee members, as defined in the DPS Bylaws) may submit a nomination.

DPS officers, DPS Committee members, and members of the DPS Prize Subcommittee may not submit nominations or supporting letters. Sitting members [31] of the DPS Prize Subcommittee are not eligible for awards. Such nominations will be considered submitted once that member has rotated off the Subcommittee.
The DPS expects that a candidate for nomination follows the AAS Code of Ethics [32] and actively promotes AAS core values.

A complete nomination submitted by the deadline will be considered by the Prize Subcommittee for three (3) years (i.e. for this year's award, next year's award, and the year after that), or for the duration of a candidate's eligibility, whichever is less. Past nominees may be re-nominated after the expiration of a prior nomination.

Though DPS Prizes are primarily intended to honor living people, a posthumous nomination (except for the Sagan Medal) may be submitted within the nomination period containing the first anniversary of the date of death of the nominee, and will be considered for three years. In the case of the Urey Prize, the nominee will be considered for three years, or until the nominee would have reached the time limit following receipt of the Ph.D. as specified for living recipients, whichever is smaller. Posthumous nominations are not renewable. Only living nominees will be considered for the Sagan Medal.

In the case of a posthumous recipient, there generally will be no cash award, but reasonable travel expenses will be offered for an appropriate survivor to attend the DPS meeting and receive the prize certificate and citation.

Please fill out the nomination form [33], and it will be submitted to the Prize Subcommittee.

The Eberhart Award has different rules and procedures than the other DPS Prizes; please see its page [6] for more information.

Prize Subcommittee Rules and Procedures

Selection Procedure

The Prize Subcommittee assists the DPS Committee in selecting recipients by reviewing all nominations received, verifying eligibility, and preparing a slate of approximately three candidates for each award.

All the nominations and selection procedures will be carried out in a confidential manner.

Prior to the annual meeting of the DPS, the Prize Subcommittee shall provide the DPS Committee with an ordered slate of approximately three choices for each prize, unless there are fewer than two valid nominations for a prize, in which case all valid nominations shall be included in the slate. One of the choices may be a recommendation for no award, which may be placed in any order in the slate of choices. The Subcommittee shall also provide the DPS Committee with all documentation supporting each nominee on the slate.

Final selection - or the choice not to make an award - will be made by the DPS Committee. At an appropriate time, the prize and award recipients will be publicly announced through the DPS Press Officer.

The Eberhart Award [6] has different rules and procedures than the other DPS Prizes; please see its page for more information.
Prize Details

For Prize details, see individual listings (Kuiper Prize [1], Alexander Prize [2], Urey Prize [3], Masursky Award [4], Sagan Medal [5], Eberhart Award [6]).

Prize Subcommittee Membership

The DPS Prize Subcommittee nominally consists of seven members. The procedure for appointing new subcommittee members and lists of current and past members can be found here [31].

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Source URL: https://dps.aas.org/prizes

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