

Tasmanian STEM Communicator of the Year Award 2026

Guidelines and application form



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The awards

The Tasmanian STEM Communicator of the Year Award 2026 (the Award) recognises the achievements of the state's leading science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) communicators and highlights the importance of STEM in growing Tasmania's community and economy.

Supported by the Tasmanian Government, Inspiring Australia, and the University of Tasmania, the Award will recognise an individual's achievement and impact in the field of STEM communication for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

The Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards provide the finalists with an excellent opportunity to build networks and relationships, and to raise their profile. The Award, consisting of a \$5,000 cheque and trophy, will be presented at the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards reception on 10 November 2026.

Benefits to the winner and nominees

The benefits from participating in the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards are numerous.

The Awards provide:

- recognition and exposure for participating companies and individuals
- opportunities for networking and forming business and research alliances amongst participants, including other industry representatives, academics and teachers
- a platform for participants to benchmark their products and services
- a 'showcase of success stories' for Tasmanian firms and individuals that are developing innovative STEM research outcomes
- media exposure for products, participating firms and individuals.

How to apply

To enter the Tasmanian STEM Communicator of the Year Award complete this application form and submit it to the Manager of Inspiring Australia Tasmania by:

6:00 pm Sunday, 27 September 2026.

Eligibility

Applications are invited from individuals employed and/or undertaking STEM communication activities in Tasmania. Individuals from organisations and statutory authorities funded by the Tasmanian Government are eligible whereas those from state government departments are not. Previous winners of this category are not eligible to apply, but previous applicants are invited to re-apply.

Judging

The judging panel members will be selected on the basis of their knowledge and expertise in the STEM communication field.

Selection criteria

The Award will be presented to an individual who has shown excellence in STEM communication over the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years. STEM communication can be broadly interpreted to include all activities that facilitate the effective presentation of STEM content to non-expert audiences.

Effective STEM communication can be demonstrated by the achievement of outcomes such as:

- critically engaging audiences with key scientific issues
- inspiring interest in STEM disciplines and endeavours
- encouraging people to pursue STEM studies and careers.

Relevant STEM communication pursuits may include but are not limited to:

- STEM promotion and outreach activities
- journalism and broadcasting including online and social media
- script, book and blog writing
- interpretation of STEM within cultural institutions
- STEM shows, presentations and events
- citizen science project development.

Other conditions

As a successful recipient of the Award, you may be invited to serve on the judging panel for that award category in the year following your attainment of the award. You may also be invited by the Tasmanian Government, Inspiring Australia, and the University of Tasmania to take part in a limited number of STEM engagement events, such as Science Meets Parliament, Innovation Forums, and student outreach programs if available.

Submitting an application

To enter the Tasmanian STEM Communicator of the Year Award 2026, complete this application form and submit it to Inspiring.Tasmania@utas.edu.au by:

6:00 pm Sunday, 27 September 2026.

Please note attachments are limited at three files (two pages only per attachment). For larger files please provide a link accessible via a website or contact the Inspiring Australia Tasmania team via details below to discuss.

Enquiries:

Manager, Inspiring Australia Tasmania

Phone: 0456 826 322

Email: Inspiring.Tasmania@utas.edu.au

Declaration

In submitting the enclosed application for entry into the Tasmanian STEM Communicator of the Year Award 2026, you warrant that,

1. You have the full power and lawful authority to submit an application form on behalf of the applicant.
2. The information contained in this application is accurate and factual.
3. You agree to abide by the Tasmanian STEM Communicator of the Year Award 2026 guidelines and terms and conditions of entry.

Application form

All applicants are directed to read the accompanying guidelines and terms and conditions before completing this application.

Applications close 6:00 pm Sunday, 27 September 2026.

Section A – Applicant details

1. Applicant name and address

Please complete those fields that are applicable to you or your organisation

Applicant name (incl. Title)			
Position			
Institution/organisation			
School/division (if applicable)			
Postal address			
Suburb		Postcode	
Mobile Phone		Email	

2. Photo

Please attach a photo of yourself - for use at the presentation ceremony if you are a finalist for the award.

3. Curriculum Vitae

Please attach a brief Curriculum Vitae (maximum four pages) including two professional referees.

4. Referral source

Where did you hear about the STEM Excellence Awards?

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5. Short Bio

Please write a short professional biography for yourself - for use at the presentation ceremony if you are a finalist for the award.

Maximum 150 words.

Section B – Assessment criteria

6. Briefly outline your STEM communication career highlights including notable activities for the 24 month period: 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2026.

Maximum 250 words. Additional content will not be considered.

7. Describe the outcomes of these activities. For example, evidence of reach and audience, collaborations and partnerships feedback received (anecdotal or otherwise).

Maximum 200 words. Additional content will not be considered.

8. How will your STEM communication activities have ongoing impacts for our community and/or further afield?

Maximum 150 words. Additional content will not be considered.

Note: Save the completed PDF and email it, along with your Photo and Curriculum Vitae (maximum four pages) to Inspiring.Tasmania@utas.edu.au

If you wish to include some extra supporting material (such as pamphlets or advertising material) please limit it to three appendices (two pages only per attachment).

9. Optional weblink for video files:

Terms and conditions of entry

1. All applications must be received in full by the Manager of Inspiring Australia by the closing date in these guidelines. Late applications will not be accepted.
2. Applicants will be competitively assessed on the basis of their application. The coordinators of the Awards or members of the judging panel may contact the applicants to seek further information and/or clarification.
3. Applicants must agree to abide by the decision of the judging panel.
4. All material submitted will be used solely for the purpose of applying for this Award and will not be circulated. No material relating to an Applicant's entry will be publicised without their prior approval.
5. Photographs and the Short Bio submitted in Section A of this application will be used solely for purposes related to the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards presentation ceremony.
6. The coordinating committee reserves the right to revoke an Award, re-award an Award or withdraw any application from consideration for the Award if the applicant is in breach of any of these terms and conditions.
7. Finalists should use their best endeavours to attend or be represented at the Award ceremony. Attendance by applicants at the presentation ceremony is encouraged.
8. Applicants enter the Awards at their own risk and the organiser will not be liable for any loss, damage or expense incurred by the applicant as a result of entering an application in the Awards.
9. Applicants agree to do all things reasonable to participate and/or cooperate with any promotional or media activities conducted by the organisers and sponsors in relation to the Tasmanian STEM Communicator of the Year Award 2026.
10. No contractual or other legal relationship shall arise between the members of the judging panels, the organisers, sponsors and any organisation applying for the Awards.



2026 Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards

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