

Local Chapter of the Year Award Application Form

Regular Chapter

Student Chapter

Pre-College Chapter

Applications for the Local Chapter of the Year Award must be completed by an officer or member of the local chapter seeking the award. Keep in mind that no one knows your chapter's accomplishments as well as you, so it is up to you to make sure this application is as thorough and complete as possible. The award will be given for chapter activities conducted during a 12-month period from 1 May through 30 April of the year the application is submitted. Two awards will be given, one to a student chapter, and one to a regular chapter. The complete application package must be received by 1 May of the same year, to:

American Meteorological Society
Local Chapter of the Year Selection Committee
45 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108-3693

If you have any questions, contact Kelly Savoie at 617-226-3983; e-mail: ksavoie@ametsoc.org.

Basic Chapter Information

The chapter must be in good standing and must meet the minimum requirements outlined in the Local Chapter Officers' Handbook to be considered for this award.

- 1) President/Chair must be a member of the national AMS.
- 2) The chapter must have reported election results during the period.

Name of Chapter: University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM)

Person responsible for completion of this application

Name: Jose A. Algarin-Ballesteros

Address: University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Department of Physics

~~P.O. Box 9000, Mayaguez, PR 00681-9000~~

E-mail: jose.algarin2@upr.edu

Chapter officers:

President or Chair: Jose A. Algarin-Ballesteros

Other Officers:

Vice President or Vice Chair: Evemarie Y. Bracetti-Resto

Historian: Rosa M. Vargas-Martes

Secretary: Mileidy Crespo-Jones

Webmaster: Ivan L. Fontanez-Vazquez

Treasurer: Gloria E. Berrios-Rivera

Magazine Editor: Lee A. Ingles-Serrano

Number of active (dues paying) members in the chapter during the evaluation period: 43

Number of chapter members who are all also AMS national members: 43

Number of meetings of the chapter during the evaluation period: 9

Activities for Evaluation

A major consideration under this award is the extent to which your local chapter furthers the mission of the American Meteorological Society; especially activities that serve to educate and involve the local community regarding scientific issues. The human and material resources available to your chapter will be considered along with your accomplishments in the evaluation process. When filling out the award application, please be sure to include any new activities and improvements that your chapter has undertaken over the past year. For guidance on what your chapter should consider when completing the award application, please go to:

www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/awardguidance.html
www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/LCAC%20COY_Sample.pdf

Answer each of the following questions on a separate sheet of paper, limiting each response to 500 words or less. There is a 3 page MAXIMUM for the award application.

1. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your members? (500 words or less)
2. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your community? (500 words or less)
(questions 1 and 2 are not limited to activities of a scientific nature)
3. In the past year, what has your chapter done for the national AMS? (500 words or less)

For question 3, activities that should be highlighted include, but are not limited to, submissions to the Chapter Channel section of BAMS and/or the quarterly Local Chapter Affairs Newsletter, displaying a chapter poster and abstract at the annual meeting, and contributing to the chapter Wiki page that falls within the evaluation period.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Local Chapter Affairs Committee and their recommendations will be forwarded to the AMS Council through the Awards Oversight Committee. The Council will make the final award selections at its fall meeting, as it does with all other Society awards. Award winning chapters will be notified by late October and will be presented the award at the following annual meeting at the Local Chapter Breakfast. The award will consist of a banner indicating the year of the award, along with certificates for each officer serving during the year for which the award is presented. The chapter(s) who receive the award will also be listed in the annual meeting award's brochure.

Those chapters who do not receive an award for a particular year may, at the discretion of the Local Chapters Affairs Committee, be added to a "Local Chapter Honor Roll" for meritorious service. The Honor Roll will be maintained on the AMS Web site. Special notation of chapter of the year and chapter honor roll status will also be made on the AMS Website near the chapter's local news submissions during the 12 month period following the award.

A chapter may not win the Local Chapter of the Year Award more than 2 years in a row. After receiving the award 2 years in a row, there will be a one year hiatus before that chapter will be eligible to apply for the award again. Chapters, however, will be eligible for Honor Roll Status during this hiatus.

The awards approval process takes quite awhile. You will receive notification of the final outcome in October following your submission in May. Please provide additional contact information if necessary for awards communications next fall.

1. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your members? (500 words or less)

The members of the AMS Student Chapter of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM) are a wide variety of students. They include from freshmen to seniors, but all with a deep interest and passion about meteorology. That is why the Chapter's main goal is to help students in their professional development. One way to achieve this is by the celebration of an Annual Meteorology Symposium for members that conducted research in their summer internships. It was held at the beginning of the Fall semester.

Throughout the year, several scientific seminars were organized to learn from the experience and knowledge accumulated by the speakers. In order to enhance our members' knowledge and professional experiences. Some of these included: *What is the ENSO? How does it affect the hurricane season in the tropics?*, a talk offered by returning Meteorology Professor Dr. Luis Bejarano. The Dynamics in the Tropics, and the Madden-Julian Oscillation topic was explored by UPRM Meteorology Program's alumni and former Chapter member, Angel Adames, currently a PhD candidate at the University of Washington. Lastly, Dr. Andrew Heymsfield from University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) visited Mayaguez and provided information to the students about opportunities for graduate studies and internships. Dr. Heymsfield was also a guest speaker for a seminar on Cloud Physics. The Chapter also organized a presentation by the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program (CTWP). Its coordinator, Dr. Christa von Hillebrandt, lectured our members about tsunami and meteotsunamis. Her staff provided a tour of their facilities and systems.

Activities like the Weather Festival, the *Science in Media Communications Workshop* and regular visits to elementary and secondary schools provide our members an opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, and a positive attitude for effective teamwork.

Many other educational and social activities were held by the Chapter. Our Chapter also promotes a balanced life in which every student needs some time to relax from academic stress. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner, and an exchange of gifts for Valentine's Day are an example of this. Additionally, we integrated the social aspect with education, when the Chapter went to the movies to watch *Into the Storm*, a movie related to our field. The Chapter believes that by developing these activities, members share common activities to learn and practice our knowledge.

2. In the past year, what has your chapter done for your community? (500 words or less)

Our chapter is aware of its purpose, which is to help with the development of professionals that will live to serve the common good. Yet we cannot forget who we ultimately want to help. For these reasons, we have conducted the following events:

- **Outreach activity in collaboration with the National Weather Service San Juan held at Guaynabo, PR** - Members helped the NWS San Juan distribute information about Hurricanes, and helped explain the usefulness of various weather instruments.
- **Blood Drive held at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez**- In order to help others in need, the Chapter held a Blood Drive at the beginning of the 2014-2015 academic year. It was so well supported, that an additional day had to be scheduled so that every person willing to donate blood could participate.
- **Open House of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez**- Chapter members performed several meteorology-related demonstrations. Members provided some orientation the Chapter and the academic courses available through the Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology Program.
- **8th Weather Fest** - This year's Weather Festival theme was *Natural Disasters in the Caribbean*. We invited the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, and the Puerto Rico Seismic Network to speak to the public, mainly students, about the importance of being prepared for a natural disaster. Visitors had the opportunity to watch demonstrations related to atmospheric and geological events. We received the visit of the NWS San Juan staff, Puerto Rico's State Agency for Emergency Management and a local News anchor. The TV station presented a report on the activity in the local news.
- **School Visits** – Chapter members visited several schools around the Island during this year. Students of all ages learned how dynamic the atmosphere is, and the role that meteorology has in our everyday life. Our members brought several eye-catching demonstrations to these schools.
- **Fundraising for UNICEF**- There was a Trick or Treat fundraiser for UNICEF to help children around the world. We organized a Hot Dog Sale and the money raised was donated to the UNICEF Program.

3. In the past year, what has your chapter done for the national AMS? (500 words or less)

The Student Chapter election of Officers occurred in May 2014, on our last meeting of the academic year 2013-2014. Three new members were elected as officers. The President got re-elected for a second year, and the results were immediately notified to the AMS Headquarters.

We require that Chapter members to become a member of the National AMS also. This helps us ensure that both societies get new members each and every year.

Ten members of the Student Chapter attended the 95th AMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. The Chapter presented a poster at the Local Chapter Poster Session, and six members presented their research projects at the 12th Annual Student Conference. Our Chapter was recognized at the Chapter Officers Breakfast in the 2013-2014 Local Chapter Honor Roll. Also, four Chapter members worked as Student Assistants during the Meeting.

The Chapter now reports regular activities by submitting a monthly entry to the Channel Chapter Section of BAMS. In this section, the Chapter summarizes a new initiative, or a special activity each month. These could include scientific talks, conferences or social gatherings. In this way, we inform keep up to date the National AMS of what's happening in our group. Even though the monthly minutes are not required to be submitted, the Chapter historian continues to write them as a record of our activities, and are available on our website.