

Dolly Parton's
**Chasing Rainbows
Award**



Dolly Parton's Chasing Rainbows Award is a partnership between Dolly Parton, the National State Teachers of the Year Organization and The Dollywood Foundation.



DOLLY'S STORY: "CHASING RAINBOWS"

"Chasing Rainbows" definitely sums up Dolly's life story as she went from rags to riches. She was born January 19, 1946 in a one-room cabin on the banks of the Little Pigeon River in the Great Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee. She grew up poor — very poor. In fact, her daddy couldn't afford to pay the doctor for delivering her, so he gave him a sack of cornmeal. Being poor was something Dolly was neither proud nor ashamed of. Although her young life was tough, growing up with her parents and eleven brothers and sisters in a close-knit home that while materially lacking, was more than rich in spirit.

Dolly's young life was filled with the inspiration for music that led the fiercely independent, ambitious eighteen-year-old, the day after high school graduation, to arrive in Nashville with nothing but her guitar and her dream. Since that day in 1964, she has become one of the most well-known and loved celebrities in the world. Sometimes lost in the glamour of stardom is her enormous talent as a singer, writer, and actress. Undoubtedly, this talent was a gift granted her the day she was born, a talent which she has developed and nurtured through her incredible work ethic.

Dolly endured the ups and downs in her life and gives the credit to her faith which helped her overcome many obstacles. Dolly never strayed far from her roots, and through her humanitarian efforts, has given back a great deal of her "pot of gold" to the community in which she grew up and to boys and girls across the nation.

DOLLY'S CONTRIBUTIONS: " NOT A POT OF GOLD; A HEART OF GOLD"

Dolly says, "The kids call me the 'Book Lady', and I think it's great!" Dolly launched the Imagination Library in 1996 to promote reading among preschool children in Sevier County, a rural community in the Great Smoky Mountains. It generated so much interest that in 2000 she decided to offer the program nationally. Today, Dolly's Imagination Library reaches nearly 70,000 children in 200 communities and in 26 states. The books—from life's little lessons to bedtime stories—are mailed once a month, starting at birth, and continues through sixty selections until the child turns five years old. She has a national literacy board that selects the books and the Imagination Library is managed by her Dollywood Foundation's Board of Directors.

DOLLY'S INSPIRATION

The National State Teachers of the Year was excited to present to Dolly Parton the "Chasing Rainbows" Award on April 5, 2002 at the dedication of the Chasing Rainbow Museum in Dollywood. Dolly has not only captured the rainbow, but the pot of gold at the end as well. But it wasn't the pot of gold that captured NSTOY's attention; it was "a heart filled with gold." Dolly loves children and it is her desire that all children across the nation have books of their very own in their own home, become better readers, and expand their imaginations. Although everyone knows Dolly as a talented singer, songwriter, and actress, this award honors her for her lifelong commitment to improve the lives of children.

Every year NSTOY will honor a special Chasing Rainbows Teacher of the Year who, like Dolly Parton, has overcome great obstacles in his/her life, has captured the rainbow, and is helping children. This distinguished award will be displayed in a permanent place in the Chasing Rainbows Museum with the award winning teacher's name beside Dolly's as a reminder to people to never be afraid to chase their dreams. The recipient of the award will be treated to a weekend trip to Dollywood to meet Dolly, have their name added to the award and enjoy the beautiful Smoky Mountains.

It takes two things to make a rainbow: a bright shining light and tiny droplets of water. This bright light, representing Dolly and the teacher, shining through the tiny droplets of water, which are the children, make a beautiful rainbow and lead us all to the pot of gold, ...our future generation!

THE SPIRIT OF DOLLY PARTON'S CHASING RAINBOWS AWARD

Dolly Parton was the first recipient of the "Chasing Rainbows" award on April 5, 2002. Now NSTOY will recognize annually a Chasing Rainbows Teacher of the Year who epitomizes the "spirit" of this award.

The goals of this award are:

- to bring recognition to the Chasing Rainbows Teacher of the Year who overcame obstacles to become an exemplary teacher
- to honor teachers who enhance the teaching profession in the eyes of the public
- to stress empathy and better meet the needs of students
- to increase NSTOY and State Chapter memberships
- to encourage TOYs to become chartered State Chapters
- to challenge chartered State Chapters to become more actively involved

REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION

1. Each state chapter may select one or more nominees
2. The nominee may be nominated by someone else or be self-nominated
3. The nominee must be a paid NSTOY and/or a State Chapter member
4. The nominee may be actively teaching or retired

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. Application must be completed in its entirety.
2. Binders, folders, clips, or clear plastic covers are not allowed. Staple the items in the top left corner only.
3. Please include a black and white professional photograph (size may vary from 2 x 3 to 8 x 10). This photograph will be used for publicity purposes only and will NOT be a consideration during the actual selection process. (photo is optional)
4. Send six completed packets (the original and 5 copies.)
5. Five letters of support are required. Include one from each of the following individuals, plus one additional letter from an individual of your choice:
 - student
 - colleague/team member
 - parent of a student
 - principal or other supervisor
6. If retired, use your last year of teaching for reference
7. If nominated, send completed nomination form
8. The self-portrait should be three double-spaced typewritten pages in a 12 point pica or computer font, single-sided sheet of white paper.

DEADLINES

July NSTOY Conference - The Chasing Rainbows Award Kick-off
October 1 - Deadline for applications
November 1 - Notification of Awardee

SEND APPLICATIONS TO:

Edna Rogers
904 Lake Smoky Rd.
Sevierville, TN 37876
865 774 0777

NOMINATION FORM

This page is to be completed by the person making the nomination.

I officially nominate _____ for Dolly Parton's "Chasing Rainbows" Award.
Indicate in 50 words or less why the nominee should be given this award.

Signature of nominator

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

(print or type)

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone E-mail Fax

Relationship of nominator to nominee

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Fax # _____ Home email _____

Note: If retired, please complete this page with reference to your last active professional position.

Title/Subject _____ Grade Level _____

Years Teaching Experience _____ Name of School _____

School/Work Address _____

School/Work Phone _____

State and Year named Teacher of the Year _____

Name of State Chapter to which you are a member _____

NOMINEE PERMISSION AND VERIFICATION STATEMENT

I give permission for this nomination form and the accompanying materials to be shared with the NSTOY Selection Committee and persons interested in promoting Dolly Parton's Chasing Rainbows Award. I acknowledge the information in this packet is true and correct.

Signature _____

SELF-PORTRAIT

Please describe in full detail the obstacle/obstacles that have happened in your personal or professional life and that because of "Chasing that Rainbow," you have been able to overcome, have made a difference in the life/lives of a student/students, and have become exemplary in the teaching profession. Your self-portrait should include 5 steps:

1. CLOUDS - Tell about your obstacle/obstacles in life (illness, adverse conditions, tragedies, poverty, poor working conditions, discrimination, handicaps, etc.)
2. CHASING RAINBOWS - Describe how you began to overcome your obstacle/obstacles and something positive began to happen.
3. BRIGHT LIGHT - Tell how these experiences made you a better teacher.
4. DROPLETS OF WATER - Explain how your story has made a difference in the life/lives of student/students.
5. POT OF GOLD - How these experiences have been rewarding to you and molded you into an exemplary teacher.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Please include five letters of support. Include one from each of the following individuals listed under application guidelines, plus one additional letter of your choice.

Guide lines must be followed or applicant will be disqualified.

National State Teachers of the Year

The National State Teachers of the Year (NSTOY) is a professional service organization made up of outstanding teachers who represent excellence in American education. Each member has been previously selected as a state or U.S. protectorate recipient of a Council of Chief State School Officers award as Teacher of the Year. Organized in 1980, and committed to the education of America's youth, NSTOY endeavors to do the following:

- assume a leadership role in the promotion of educational excellence.
- encourage quality education for each individual through quality teaching.
- recognize the excellence and commitment of professional educators.
- promote a positive image of education through public awareness.
- be actively involved in the recruitment of dedicated people into the field of teaching.
- stimulate the professional growth of NSTOY members and encourage their participation in a variety of educational activities.

Outreach Activities

This service organization networks with national and state professional education organizations, universities, school districts, and civic groups through:

- contributing to educational publications.
- presenting workshops, courses, speeches, and inservice programs.
- participating in national surveys and research projects related to educational issues.

Membership Activities

Membership activities include, but are not limited to:

- organizing NSTOY chapters.
- publishing a national newsletter.
- sponsoring a national scholarship program for students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in education.
- conducting an annual conference.

Annual Conference

At the national conference, NSTOY Members convene to:

- encourage and support excellence in teaching.
- collectively strive for the betterment of education.
- develop strategies for recognizing the importance of teachers and teaching.
- hear reports on members' educational activities across America.
- share their programs with college education majors and local teachers.
- investigate ways of placing TOY's skills at the service of their respective communities, hear speakers of state and national reputation address important issues in education.
- elect national NSTOY officers.
- conduct the general business of the organization.
- utilize committees to guide organizational projects.
- develop and enjoy fellowship and friendship between TOYs and their families.

The Teacher of the Year Awards

The Teacher of the Year (TOY) Award Program was initiated in 1952 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in order to bring recognition to the importance of teachers as nurturers of the "American Dream." His intention to honor all teachers by the selection of a representative teacher from each state would find completion in the yearly choice of a national teacher of the year. Through an organized and varied selection process involving classroom teachers, school administrators, state officials, students, parents, and business representatives, each state and U.S. protectorate nominates its own Teacher of the Year. This name is then submitted to a national committee where the process is repeated and the final selection is made of the National Teacher of the Year. Care is taken at all levels to ensure that the teacher selected at the local, state, and national level is not labeled "the best" but simply identified as a representative of all dedicated teachers. The TOY program is co-sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic, Incorporated.

Membership

Any state/protectorate Teacher of the Year is eligible and invited into membership by the National State Teachers of the Year.

For further information please contact our National Headquarters:

**National Teachers Hall of Fame
NSTOY Office**

NSTOY Membership Form

YEAR: _____

Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Last First Middle First

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Work Phone: (_____) _____

FAX: (_____) _____ email: _____

Birthday: _____ / _____ State in Which TOY Award Presented: _____ Year: _____
Month Day

Annual Conferences(s) Attended: (Please circle states and years in which you attended conferences.)

NE CA AZ NJ TX OR MN MO LA KS TN WA KY NV IL OH HI AZ AR NM VA NV DE
80 81 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03

Membership Categories: (Please check one.)

_____ Active \$60.00 Dues
_____ Retired \$25.00 Dues
_____ Current No Dues
_____ Honorary No Dues
_____ Lifetime No Dues

Membership Dues: (Dues amount listed above) \$ _____

Scholarship Donations: (Optional)

Kay Battista Scholarship Donation \$ _____

NSTOY Family Award Scholarship Donation \$ _____

General Fund Donations: (Optional)

For _____ \$ _____

Unspecified Use \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make check payable to NSTOY and mail it along with this form to:

Judy Beedles Miller
Box 696
Dodge City KS 67801

For Office Use Only

Date Rec'd: _____ / _____ /20____

Check# _____

Check Amt:
\$ _____

Membership Card
Sent: _____ / _____ /20____

Certificate Sent:
_____ / _____ /20____