Padre Picetti Award Application Terms

1. About the Padre Picetti Award

The Padre Picetti Award is an annual initiative of the AURA Observatory in Chile. The award has been given since 2014 in honor to Father Juan Baptista Picetti. The initiative aims to recognize the leaders in education and outreach in Chile due to their outstanding performance and contributions to the community in the teaching of science, not only to young students but also to general public. Thus, contributing on the stimulation of new generations of astronomers and scientific professionals for Chile.

2. Application Requirements

Candidates can be teachers or professionals in the practice of their profession - whether working in public, private or financed entities. They must have experience in teaching or disseminating mathematics, physics or astronomy. They must also have the sponsorship of an institution where the candidate is currently working or has worked as professional.

The candidate is required to have an academic or technical degree and at least five years of experience in the scientific or teaching field.

3. Application

Applications will be received from October 16th, 2019 to December 1st, 2019.

Applications shall be sent by email in digital format to premiopp@aura-astronomy.org. Applications must have the requested documents attached to it in PDF or Word formats.

In special cases, the authorization to send a printed application by regular mail can be requested via email to premiopp@aura-astronomy.org. These will only be accepted a week before the deadline of November 29th, 2019.

There are two ways to apply:
3.1 Application made by the interested professional

Applicant professionals or teachers shall include:

1. Cover letter including an essay about “the motivation for teaching or disseminating Mathematics, Physics and/or Astronomy”. The document must have 2 or 3 letter size pages highlighting the reasons to apply to this award and the personal attributes that could made him/her deserving the award.
2. Updated curriculum vitae, detailing the background necessary to evaluate the work made in dissemination or teaching of any of these disciplines in Chile.
3. Recommendation letters from former students or professionals (minimum of two) whose vocations have been specially influenced by the applicant professional or professor. Letters must be signed with full name and ID number (RUT).
4. Recommendation letter from an authority from the sponsored institution.

Other background information can be submitted, for example, publications, interviews, awards, outstanding participation in extracurricular events, etc. which allows the committee to have a broader and full view of the applicant. This information must be representative to their professional performance.

3.2 Application made by students, former students or coworkers of the professional

For students, former students or coworkers planning to candidate the professional, they shall comply with the following requirements:

1. To indicate full name, contact information of the professional to be applied: email, telephone, institution where the candidate currently works.
2. To send at least 2 recommendation letters from former students or professionals (minimum of two) whose vocations have been specially influenced by the applicant professional or teacher. Letters must be signed with full name and ID number (RUT).
3. With these background information, the organizers will contact the teacher or professional who shall complete the application with the documentation required in the previous item. Letters submitted by former students, current students or coworkers shall be considered as background for the application.

Applications submitted after the deadline (or incomplete ones) will not be accepted.

4. Background Information Review
The AURA Observatory in Chile will be responsible for reviewing the documents submitted by the candidates to confirm they comply with the requested requirements.

5. About the Decision

Applications to the Padre Picetti Award will be analyzed by a mixed committee formed by media and dissemination professionals from the AURA Observatory and 1 external Chilean representative.

Proposals shall be evaluated by the committee considering the following criteria:

- Criteria of Academic and Professional Career
- Criteria of Social and/or Educational Impact
- Criteria of Impact in Regional Leadership

The committee’s decision is not subject to appeal. AURA Observatory in Chile reserves the right to declare the contest as voided.

6. About the Award

The winner will receive an Award trophy and a new 8-inch Dobsonian telescope and one night of observation in Cerro Tololo which can be used immediately after the award ceremony. The main sponsor institution will also receive a recognition. The winner and the sponsor institution will commit to attend to the award ceremony to receive the award which will be made in a ceremony organized by the AURA Observatory in Chile.

7. Information

All the information of the contest, i.e., terms, applications opening and closure dates as well as the decision date of the award will be timely informed by the email premiopp@aura-astronomy.org and through the webpage www.aura-astronomy.org.