



REGULATIONS ON THE NATIONAL AWARD "CRYSTAL COMPASS" (as amended on February 2, 2026)

National Award "Crystal Compass" (hereinafter referred to as the Award) is an award in the field of geography, ecology, conservation and popularization of natural, historical and cultural heritage. The award is held under the auspices of the Russian Geographical Society.

Awarded annually on a competitive basis. In 2026, the Prize will be awarded for projects and achievements implemented in 2025.

1. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE PRIZE

1.1. To prepare and conduct the Prize, an organizing committee is created.

1.2. The responsibilities of the organizing committee include:

- development and approval of the program and concept of the Award;
- implementation of general control over the progress of preparation and implementation of the Award;
- determination of the timing and procedure for carrying out all events within the framework of the Award;
- development and approval of the Regulations on the Prize;
- organization of the work of the expert council;
- determination of the list of partners of the Award, the procedure for interaction with the media;
- collection, registration and storage of competitive applications;
- formation of the Prize archive;
- carrying out other activities related to the preparation and holding of the Award.

2. EXPERT COUNCIL OF THE PRIZE

2.1. The Council was created in order to determine the finalists and winners of the Prize from leading scientists and public figures of Russia and foreign countries, experts in nominations.

2.2. The main task of the council is to determine the finalists and winners of the Award.

2.3. All members of the expert council perform their duties on a voluntary basis.

3. NOMINATIONS

3.1. The prize is awarded on a competitive basis in the following categories:

– **Scientific achievement**

(research in the field of geography, ecology, ethnography, history, archeology, etc.);–

Enlightenment

(educational or enlightening program in the field of geography, ecology, popularization of historical and cultural heritage; organization and holding of popular science lectures, forums, creation of educational films and other multimedia projects);

– **The best social and information project for the preservation of natural, historical and cultural heritage**

(a project aimed at developing environmentally responsible consciousness; conservation of nature, natural and cultural landscapes);

– **The best environmental project of industrial enterprises, business**

(project in the field of preservation and restoration of the environment; safety and reduction of negative impact on the environment; resource conservation in production, new technological solutions);

– **Travel and expedition**

(organization and conduct of a unique trip, expedition);

– **Best media project, media project**

(a series of publications, radio and television programs, films and other multimedia projects aimed at forming an environmental culture in society, preserving and popularizing natural and historical-cultural heritage);

– **Edition**

(popular science book, thematic publication, series of books, photo albums, sets of postcards about natural, archaeological, cultural objects; reprint of unique books);

– **Photographic work**

(photo work, a series of photographs on the topic);

- **Civil position**

(award for personal contribution to the preservation of national heritage. Nomination is carried out on the initiative of members of the expert council from among the declared participants).

Special nominations:

– **Best regional project**

(social, informational, educational project put forward by regional branches of the Russian Geographical Society);

– **Public recognition**

(the winner is determined by online voting on the Award website).

4. ORDER OF THE COMPETITION

4.1. Competition dates:

- September 1, 2025 – March 15, 2026 – acceptance of applications for the Prize;
- March – April 2026 – meeting of the Prize’s expert council, consideration of projects, qualifying selection of projects;
- April 1 – April 30, 2026 – online voting. The project with the most votes will become the winner in the “Public Recognition” category;
- May 2026 – Award ceremony.

4.2. Obtaining participant status:

Private, creative unions, organizations, institutions and enterprises that have implemented projects in the field of geography and ecology, conservation and popularization of natural, historical and cultural heritage can take part in the competition for the Prize.

There is no fee for participation in the national Crystal Compass Award.

Participants have the right to submit several projects. Each project is submitted to only one category. Experts have the right to consider projects in categories other than those specified by the applicants.

The project or the declared stage of the project should be implemented in 2025.

4.3. Submission of materials:

To register for participation in the competition, you must download the registration form on the Prize page at www.rus-compass.ru.

The completed form along with electronic project materials must be sent to premiya.compass@mail.ru.

If the volume of materials exceeds 20 A4 sheets, you must send the project in printed form to the following address:

- for postal items: 350015, Krasnodar region, Krasnodar, st. them. Mitrofana Sedina, 177, PO Box. 282. In the “to” field indicate: Vasilenko Stanislav Sergeevich;
- for courier shipments: 350015, Krasnodar region, Krasnodar, st. Krasnaya, 154, office. 605. In the “to” field, indicate: Stanislav Sergeevich Vasilenko.

Materials sent to the competition remain in the archives of the Prize organizing committee and are not returned to the participant.

Shipping is at the participant's expense.

4.4. Nomination of works for a competition can occur on the initiative of the customer, performer, team of authors or expert group. In addition, the initiator of the nomination of projects can be members of the Award’s expert council or third parties. Moreover, if the project makes it to the finals or wins, the author/author’s group of the project receives an award.

4.5. The Organizing Committee of the Award has the right to publish the application and other information about the project, contact information, name of the performer and customer.

All questions to the organizing committee can be asked by e-mail: premiya.compass@mail.ru.
Tel.: +7 (800) 700-18-45

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECTS

5.1. The application form contains:

- author and/or team of authors of the project (indicating the project manager);
- Contact details.
- nomination in which the project is submitted;
- name of the project;
- description of the project;
- geography of the project;
- goals and objectives;
- implementation results;
- implementation deadlines.

5.2. Mandatory requirements for the project are filling out an application and creating a multimedia presentation. The size of the presentation should not exceed 50 MB. The maximum number of slides are 20. The presentation will be posted on the Award website.

In addition, the participant must send a photograph reflecting the essence of the project. The photo will be published on the website accompanied by materials.

5.3. When submitting a project in electronic form, the files must be numbered in the order in which they should be reviewed by experts, for example: 1. Application. 2. Presentation. 3. Photo.

5.4. Special requirements for nominations.

5.4.1. Scientific achievement.

Participants in the competition, having conducted research, must obtain new data, supplement existing information, and develop new research methods and techniques.

Basic requirements for projects:

- relevance of research;
- clearly defined goals, objectives, methods used and new materials used;
- implementation of the results obtained (monographs, books, articles, graphs, diagrams, maps, tables, etc.);
- availability of the results obtained (presentations in the form of slide films, series of photographs, etc.);
- if available, provide the results of expeditionary research that complement theoretical models;
- practical use (recommendations, new methods, additions to cartographic atlases, maps, etc.).

5.4.2. Education.

The project should highlight the development of geographical and environmental ideas, their implementation, and increase education in the field of geography, ecology, natural and historical and cultural heritage.

Basic requirements for projects:

- object and subject of research: schools, field workshops, Olympiads, museums, exhibitions, conferences and seminars, museums, reserves, scientific and educational programs, etc.;
- scale, i.e. coverage of geographical territories (countries, republics, territories, regions, districts, cities, individual settlements):
- competence of the organization (university, research institute, individual corporations, schools, clubs, public organizations, enterprises, creative unions, etc.);
- the number of participants, confirmed by protocols, lists, etc.;
- programmatic effectiveness of the event;
- reflected in various media and printed materials.

5.4.3. The best environmental project for industrial enterprises and businesses.

Projects must contain the following information:

- the essence of the project;
- practical application, results, positive changes;
- documents confirming the implementation of the project;
- patent, expert opinion, expert reviews (if available);
- novelty, innovation, introduction of the latest technologies;
- uniqueness;
- scale of the project;
- if available, indicate analogues.

5.4.4. Travel and expedition.

Projects must contain the following information.

For the expedition:

- expedition program;
- territory coverage (international, national, regional, district, local);
- novelty (have there been similar trips or expeditions before);
- clearly formulated goals and objectives;
- ways to achieve: use of transport, walking, skiing, water transportation;
- participants: experience, qualifications of travelers or expedition participants;
- the results obtained, reflected in reports, monographs, popular science books, articles, essays;
- availability of the results obtained in presentations, television, radio, the Internet, conferences, meetings, festivals, etc.;
- practical significance, use in economic, recreational activities, to further increase the level of education, awareness and safety, etc.;
- report on the expedition;
- scientific results of the expedition;
- photo report.

For travel:

- uniqueness;
- scale;
- detailed description of goals and objectives;
- coverage of the territory (planetary, regional, district, local);
- novelty (have there been similar trips or expeditions before);
- clearly formulated goals and objectives;
- ways to achieve: use of transport, walking, skiing, water transportation;
- participants: experience, qualifications of travelers;
- the results obtained, reflected in reports, monographs, popular science books, articles, essays;
- availability of the results obtained in presentations, television, radio, the Internet, conferences, meetings, festivals, etc.;
- practical significance, use in economic, recreational activities, to further increase the level of education, awareness and safety, etc.

5.4.5. Best media project, media project.

The participant can provide the organizing committee with original publications in the media, as well as materials in electronic form.

A series of publications (at least 5 materials) is accepted for the competition.

When submitting a project electronically, you must send scanned publications indicating the publication date of the material, issue number (for print media), name of the media, link (if published on the Internet). A sample submission is posted on the website rus-compass.ru in the “Take Participation” section.

5.4.6. Edition.

The participant must deliver the published edition to the organizing committee in 3 copies. It is also recommended to send electronic versions of publications.

Printed products include atlases, monographs, popular science books, collections of articles, stories, essays, booklets, photo books and photo albums.

Basic requirements for projects:

- accessibility of presentation, i.e. ability to present material in an easy-to-read manner;
- novelty of the material presented;
- the reliability of the events presented;
- quality of printed products.

5.4.7. Photographic work.

The project must be thematic, i.e. a series of photographs united by a common idea (theme).

Delivery of photographs is possible in the following ways: uploading pictures to a file hosting service or cloud storage, sending by email to premiya.compass@mail.ru, sending pictures on digital media to the address of the organizing committee.

Photo format:

- JPEG, resolution – at least 300 dpi;
- frame size – at least 2000x2000 pixels;
- processing in graphic editors is allowed, photomontage is not;
- the minimum number of photos is 5, the maximum is 30.

6. PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1. A preliminary assessment of projects is carried out by the organizing committee. If necessary, the organizing committee has the right to request additional materials. The final package of materials is transferred from the organizing committee to members of the expert council for review and evaluation.

6.2. Project evaluation criteria:

- compliance with thematic areas and nominations;
- the relevance of the project for the industry and its social significance;
- complexity and territorial coverage;
- presence of an innovative component;
- media attractiveness of the project;
- detailed study of the project (compliance of activities with goals and objectives, optimal implementation mechanisms);
- efficiency (correspondence of results to the assigned tasks, presence of qualitative changes).

6.3. The names of the winners are not announced until the award ceremony.

7. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS AND DETERMINATION OF WINNERS

7.1. The decision to award the Prize is made by voting by members of the expert council.

7.2. Three projects in each category that receive the most votes become finalists for the award. The winners are the projects from among the finalists.

7.3. The winner in the “Public Recognition” nomination is determined by a vote of Internet users. The winner is the project with the most votes. Projects that have passed the qualifying selection take part in the voting. The timing of online voting is set by the organizing committee.

The use of any technology that allows automatic adjustment of the number of votes is prohibited. The collected votes will be cancelled. The organizers reserve the right to disqualify the project.

7.4. The names of the winners are announced at the award ceremony.

7.5. The expert council and the organizing committee reserve the right not to give written or oral explanations about the reasons for making certain decisions based on the results of consideration of applications.

8. AWARDING THE WINNERS

8.1. The winners of the award are awarded a crystal and silver figurine and an honorary diploma of the winner.

8.2. The finalists of the award are awarded a diploma.