

DR. JOSEPH T. SCHAEFER

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Dr. Joe Schaefer is the Director of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, which is responsible for all tornado and severe thunderstorm watches across the United States. His scientific interests focus on synoptic and mesoscale meteorology. He has done extensive work on forecasting techniques, tornado climatology, forecast verification and the application of technology to forecasting.

He began his career as a meteorologist with the National Weather Service Office in Evansville, Indiana in 1963, then served at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center (now SPC), the NWS office in Wichita, Kansas and the NWS office in St. Louis, Missouri. He was a research meteorologist at the Navy Weather Research Facility in Norfolk, Virginia from 1969 to 1971 and held the same position at the National Severe Storms Laboratory from 1971 to 1976. He then became chief of the Techniques Development Unit of the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, serving until 1983 when he was named chief of the Scientific Services Division of the National Weather Service Central Region, also in Kansas City. From 1991 to 1995 he was director of the NWS Training Center in Kansas City, then was named director of the Storm Prediction Center.

In Feb. 2003, Joe received the Reichelderfer Award from the American Meteorological Society. In 1990, he received the Department of Commerce bronze medal for his warning verification work, and in 1993, he received an American Meteorological Society editor's award. He has published more than three dozen articles in professional literature and has written chapters in four textbooks. He is a member of the National Weather Association, American Meteorological Society, American Geophysical Union, Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society and the Missouri Academy of Sciences. He is a past president of the National Weather Association, a fellow of the AMS, a former chair of the AMS Severe Local Storms Committee and a past member of the AMS Committee on Fellows. He is an adjunct full professor at the University of Oklahoma and has taught at St. Louis University, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Kansas City, Kansas Community College. He is currently the chair of the AMS Board on Certified Consulting Meteorologists.