



# THE PRESIDENT'S YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS

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## A Call For Local Leadership

Change starts in local neighborhoods and communities. To encourage youth to engage in voluntary service at the local level, a recognition system has been established to honor outstanding young Americans. Leadership must come from all types of institutions in every community:

- Schools & Universities
- Places of Worship
- Public & Nonprofit Organizations
- Businesses
- Labor Unions
- Clubs & Neighborhood Groups

Each is encouraged and authorized to select the President's Youth Service Award winners. Each can recognize local winners year-round, at any time of their choosing.

## Goals and Objectives

One of the distinctive characteristics of the United States is our conviction that each individual can make a difference and our sense of compassion—neighbors helping neighbors.

The President's Youth Service Awards were officially created on October 28, 1992 when President George Bush signed the enabling Executive Order.

The purpose of establishing the President's Youth Service Awards is to create a widespread, grassroots recognition system to encourage millions of young Americans to participate in voluntary community service activities aimed at solving serious social problems. There will be two levels of awards—the President's Award and the National Award.

The goal is to demonstrate to young people by the millions that service to others is part of life in America. In a free Republic, each individual can make a difference.

The President's Youth Service Awards are administered by the White House Office of National Service and the Commission on National and Community Service, which is the official Federal action agency for the award. Collaborating with these Federal agencies on the award will be the Points of Light Foundation and the American Institute for Public Service—the Jefferson Awards, which will have responsibility for day-to-day implementation. The Congress and the nation's Governors are invited to make nominations

and fully participate in all aspects of strengthening the youth service ethic through local recognition ceremonies.

## Collaborating Organizations

### The White House Office of National Service



The White House Office of National Service was created in January 1989 to assist the President in leading a national movement designed to help solve serious social problems through community service.

### The Commission on National and Community Service



The Commission on National and Community Service is a Federal agency, governed by a 21 member board of directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, with the mission of renewing the ethic of civic responsibility in the United States.

### The American Institute for Public Service—The Jefferson Awards



The American Institute for Public Service—the Jefferson Awards, a nonprofit, public foundation, was established in 1972 to recognize individual excellence in public service and to attract young people to community service.

### The Points of Light Foundation



The Points of Light Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, was established in May, 1990 to engage all Americans in direct and consequential community service directed at solving serious social problems.

## Information and Inquiries

All correspondence should be sent to the President's Youth Service Awards. We welcome all telephone calls. If you have any questions or if you need any assistance, please contact:

The President's Youth Service Awards  
P. O. Box 310  
New Castle, Delaware 19720  
(302) 323-9659

## The Awards

The President's Youth Service Awards recognize two different levels of service activity, and include two separate awards.

### The President's Award

The President's Award honors young Americans who demonstrate outstanding community service. The award is a specially designed and sculpted pin that carries the Seal of the President of the United States. The inscription reads, "The President's Youth Service Award." Each winner also receives a handsomely designed certificate that is signed by the President. This is the highest award.

### The National Award

The National Award honors young Americans who demonstrate meaningful community service accomplished at a level slightly less exacting than the President's Award. The award is a specially designed and sculpted pin that carries the Great Seal of the United States. The inscription reads, "The National Youth Service Award." Each winner also receives a handsomely designed certificate that is signed by the President.

## Selection Criteria

The following criteria should be utilized in reviewing and judging all nominees. These criteria apply to both the President's Award and the National Award. The President's Award is the highest award for outstanding community service. The National Award is for meaningful community service at a level slightly less exacting than the President's Award. Selection does not require that an individual demonstrate all of these skills. The judges should consider the nominees' qualifications in the broad context of these criteria.

**Achievement**—Each nominee needs to demonstrate a measurable community service and impact.

**Ongoing Involvement**—The voluntary community service must be hands-on and ongoing. However, under extraordinary circumstances, outstanding "one-time" service would qualify.

**Community Needs**—The voluntary community service must be directed at serious social problems.

**Building A Service Ethic**—A goal is to build a service ethic in local communities and in young individuals. This includes:

- **Showing Initiative**  
Taking the extra step and developing service projects

- **Building An Understanding of Issues**  
Learning and educating others on community problems
- **Developing Ideas Into Practice**  
Learning how to develop an idea, create a plan, and follow through with implementation
- **Demonstrating Leadership**  
Involving others, encouraging teamwork, and working well with others

## Eligibility

- The awards are given for individual achievement. Individuals who perform community service as part of a group are eligible.
- The awards are designed to recognize **voluntary, not paid, community service**.

All existing and ongoing youth service activities, non-paid, are eligible for consideration. Where a program, such as a school program or a business program, mandates voluntary service, these activities are eligible as long as the participants are not paid. If an individual who is paid for community service, such as a government employee, an employee of a private social service organization, or a member of a youth service corps, performs voluntary community service beyond their paid activity, these individuals are eligible for their voluntary services.

- Young people age five (5) through twenty-two (22) are eligible.
- The awards will be presented in four age categories:

Age 5 to 8	Age 14 to 17
Age 9 to 13	Age 18 to 22

The four age categories allow young people of different skill levels based on age to compete fairly.

- To avoid any individual receiving more than one Presidential Youth Service Award in any given year, each nominee may accept only one nomination per year.
- The awards are designed to recognize hands-on service. All fundraising activities are excluded from consideration. All lobbying efforts trying to change Federal, State or local laws are excluded.
- All young residents in the United States and its territories are eligible. An individual does not need to be an American citizen.
- An individual may receive the award multiple times during the eighteen year eligibility period.

## Award Categories

Please make nominations in the following substantive award categories. These substantive categories reflect the basic elements in building stronger communities.

All community service activities fit into these criteria. Some nominations may include activities which fall into several categories. Please choose the category which best defines the services performed and which includes the greatest portion of the activities. To help you, samples of activities are listed in each category.

The categories are:

### Commitment to Children and Young People Developing Good Character and Values

child care                      education on youth issues  
foster care                     youth and peer counseling  
mentoring                      youth and community  
youth at-risk                  recreation

### Excellent Schools and Helping Others Learn

adopt-a-school  
tutoring  
adult literacy and community education  
intergenerational literacy programs  
supplementary education at all levels  
English as a second language training  
library development and assistance

### Meaningful and Hopeful Employment Opportunities

career exploration  
employment readiness preparation  
job training and placement

### A Decent, Drug-Free and Safe Place to Live in a Clean Environment

illicit drug awareness and prevention  
substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation  
short-term crisis and permanent affordable  
housing  
services to victims of crime and/or domestic violence  
child abuse awareness and prevention  
citizen crime prevention efforts  
short-term crisis situation intervention  
community environmental awareness and  
improvement

### Quality Health Care and a Sense of Well-Being

preventive health services and education  
physical and mental health care  
services to the elderly, the homebound, the  
vulnerable and those with special needs  
services to individuals with disabilities  
services to persons with AIDS

## The Selection Process

### Local Level

All grassroot, community-based organizations are encouraged and authorized to nominate and select winners for the President's Award and the National Award. Their selections automatically become award recipients.

The awarding organizations include:

- Schools & Universities
- Places of Worship
- Public & Nonprofit Organizations
- Businesses
- Labor Unions
- Clubs & Neighborhood Groups

To participate, an organization needs to use the enclosed award categories, selection criteria, and the four age categories. Each organization needs to appoint a three to five member selection committee, including at least one young member (age 5 to 22).

Since all the above organizations are authorized to select award winners, a nominating process has been developed to avoid any individual receiving more than one President's Youth Service Award in any given year.

Each nominee needs to sign the following nomination form:

### THE PRESIDENT'S YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

"I am honored to be nominated for the President's Youth Service Award. This is my only nomination this year. I pledge not to accept a nomination from any other sponsoring organization this year."

NAME (Please Print)

SIGNATURE

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

DATE

The nomination form is only for use in the local community by the sponsoring organization and does not need to be mailed to the President's Youth Service Awards. Local sponsoring organizations may reproduce this form for their use.

All Members of the U.S. Congress will be notified of the President's Award and National Award winners in their districts and invited to hold local recognition ceremonies.

## **State and National Level**

Winners of the President's Award will be eligible for state and national recognition.

In April or May, all Governors and the Mayor of the District of Columbia may hold recognition ceremonies, designed at their own discretion, for a representative group of the President's Award winners.

The participants will be selected by a random selection process, and will include equal representation from each of the four age groups.

The purpose of the random selection process is to assure that there are no "winners or losers." All presidential youth service award recipients are winners. Everyone has a gift to give, and the goal is to motivate everyone to serve their neighbors and local communities.

Beginning in 1994, four winners of the President's Award—one from each of the four age levels—will be selected from each of the 50 states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. They will be chosen by the same random selection process and will attend a national ceremony in Washington, D.C. in May or June—all expenses paid.

## **Timing**

The first President's Youth Service Awards will be presented in 1993.

Local organizations may select winners and make their award presentations on an on-going year-round basis—April 1 through March 31—of each year.

Members of Congress will be encouraged to hold local recognition ceremonies year-round as sponsoring organizations select their winners.

Annually, at the discretion of the Governor, a ceremony may be held in April or May in each of the 50 states, and the U.S. territories; and, at the discretion of the Mayor, in the District of Columbia.

Beginning in the second year, in May or June, 1994, national ceremonies will be held in Washington, D.C. Four of the President's Award winners—one from each of four age categories—will be invited, all expenses paid, from each of the 50 states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

## **Guidelines For Local Selection Committees**

**Subjective Criteria**—The selection criteria are subjective, and are not quantifiable. They require analysis and personal judgment.

**Age Levels**—There are four age levels: 5 to 8, 9 to 13, 14 to 17, 18 to 22. The judges within each awarding organization need to adapt the selection criteria for reasonable expectations for each age level. What can reasonably be expected from a 5 to 8 year old to help solve serious social problems within their neighborhood

through community service? What can reasonably be expected from an 18 to 22 year old?

## **Two Levels of Awards— Broad Based Participation**

The President's Youth Service Award program includes two separate awards which recognize different levels of service activity—the President's Award and the National Award.

The goal is to involve millions of young people in America in voluntary community service activities. The awards are designed to be a broad based recognition system—encouraging and recognizing youth service.

The President's Award needs to be meaningful in the eyes of the young recipients, and at the same time broad based. The National Award is designed to recognize meaningful community service, but at a level slightly less exacting than the President's Award.

While it is not possible to specify precise criteria for distinguishing candidates for the President's and National Awards, at least 25 percent but no more than 50 percent of selections should be for the President's Award.

## **Local Recognition Systems**

Local sponsoring organizations are encouraged to help build the service ethic by adding their own recognition systems. Academic excellence and athletic excellence receive broad community recognition. We believe that service to others should be recognized as being of equal importance. Recognition can be meaningful and without significant cost—public ceremonies, press conferences, school assemblies, special seals on academic diplomas, mentions in school transcripts and business evaluations, etc. Members of Congress will be invited to hold local recognition ceremonies.

## **Financial Support**

The administrative costs related to establishing the President's Youth Service Awards nationwide are being shared by the Commission on National and Community Service, the American Institute for Public Service—the Jefferson Awards, and the Points of Light Foundation.

The costs of the recognition system for the individual award winners, program implementation and the costs for ongoing marketing are self-liquidating. This is covered in the price of the awards. Each local sponsoring organization needs to pay for their award winners.

An award winner should never be asked to pay for an award. An award is an honor. The sponsoring organization needs to assume the cost.

# THE PRESIDENT'S YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS OFFICIAL WINNERS FORM

ORGANIZATION NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One	Winners May Be Selected Year-Round. Winners Of The President's Award, Received From April 1 Through March 31 Each Year, Will Be Eligible For State And National Recognition.				Award Category Please Check One					
President's Award	National Award	NAME OF MEMBER OF CONGRESS _____ (Please use a separate page for each Member of Congress)				Commitment to Children	Employment Opportunities	A Decent Environment	Quality Health Care	Excellent Schools
		Name of Winner	Age	Address With Zip Code	Telephone With Area Code					
Brief Description of Activity										
		Name of Winner	Age	Address With Zip Code	Telephone With Area Code					
Brief Description of Activity										
		Name of Winner	Age	Address With Zip Code	Telephone With Area Code					
Brief Description of Activity										
		Name of Winner	Age	Address With Zip Code	Telephone With Area Code					
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		Name of Winner	Age	Address With Zip Code	Telephone With Area Code					
Brief Description of Activity										
		Name of Winner	Age	Address With Zip Code	Telephone With Area Code					
Brief Description of Activity										

**Local Sponsoring Organizations May Reproduce This Form Or A Facsimile Thereof To Submit Presidential Youth Service Winners**

## THE PRESIDENT'S YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS OFFICIAL ORDER FORM

I.

Organization Name	Contact Person	
Address	(      ) Phone	
City	State	Zip
Signature of Contact Person	Date	

Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount Due
The President's Award	\$1.90		
The National Award	\$1.90		
Sub Total			
Shipping/Handling			
Grand Total			

### II. HOW TO ORDER

#### Mail Orders:

- Orders are accepted year-round.
- The names of all winners of the President's Award received by March 31 of each year will be eligible for state and national recognition.
- A completed Order Form must accompany all orders.
- An Official Winners Form must accompany all orders.
- Orders must be accompanied by a check payable to: The President's Youth Service Awards.
- Please do not send cash or postage stamps.
- PLEASE ALLOW FOUR TO SIX WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

#### Inquiries:

- Calls are accepted year-round.
- Phone 302-323-9659 with questions or for assistance.
- Business Hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EST) Monday through Friday.

ALL ORDERS WILL BE MAILED FIRST CLASS  
PRIORITY MAIL ONLY.

Shipping Address (if different from above):

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#### PLEASE DIRECT ALL ORDERS TO:

The President's Youth Service Awards  
P.O. Box 310  
New Castle, Delaware 19720  
Phone: 302-323-9659

- With each President's Award, you will receive a sculpted pin and the President's Award Certificate.
- With each National Award, you will receive a sculpted pin, and the National Award Certificate.

Please include shipping and handling as indicated below:

Less than \$10.00	= \$1.50
\$10.00 - \$24.99	= \$2.50
\$25.00 - \$49.99	= \$3.50
\$50.00 - \$99.99	= \$4.50
\$100.00 or more	= 5% of total cost.

### III. OFFICIAL WINNERS FORM

Please complete the Official Winners Form. Please list the name, age, address, telephone number, and the appropriate award category for each winner. In addition, please indicate whether the winner is to receive the President's Award or the National Award. This form may be reproduced as necessary. Be sure to include all additional forms in your Order Form package.

### IV. NAME OF MEMBER OF U.S. CONGRESS

We plan to invite each Member of the U.S. Congress to send a congratulatory letter to each award winner. Please list the name of the appropriate Member of Congress on the top of each Winners Form. Please use a separate page for each Member of Congress if your area of coverage includes multiple Members of Congress.

## Step-By-Step Process

**Step One**—Participate in the President's Youth Service Awards by honoring local young people engaged in service activities. This applies to young people serving on their own; those who are part of existing youth service programs as well as all newly established youth service initiatives.

This involves:

1. Establishing a three to five member selection committee including at least one young person age five to twenty-two.
2. Using the enclosed award categories and selection criteria, eligibility standards, and guidelines for local communities.
3. Within the President's Youth Service Award Program, selecting winners for two separate awards—the President's Award and the National Award—recognizing different levels of service activity.
4. Local sponsoring organizations (schools and universities, places of worship, public and nonprofit organizations, businesses, labor unions, clubs and neighborhood groups) may select award winners on a year-round basis. They are encouraged to hold local recognition ceremonies. Please use the enclosed "Official Winners Form," and the

"Official Order Form." Mail the completed forms along with a check payable to the "The President's Youth Service Awards" to:

The President's Youth Service Awards  
P. O. Box 310  
New Castle, Delaware 19720

**Step Two**—All the awards will be mailed to the local sponsoring organization for distribution.

**Step Three**—On a year-round basis all Members of the U.S. Congress will be invited to hold local recognition ceremonies.

**Step Four**—During April or May all Governors may hold a recognition ceremony designed at their discretion.

**Step Five**—Beginning in the second year, in May or June of 1994, four winners of the President's Award from each of the 50 states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia—one from each of four age categories—will be invited to attend a national ceremony in Washington, D.C. This will be an all expenses paid trip for the winners.

Attendees for the Governor's ceremonies and the national ceremonies will be chosen by a random selection process out of all winners of the President's Award.

The President's Youth Service Awards  
P.O. Box 310  
New Castle, Delaware 19720

Place  
Postage  
Here