

17th Annual

the power OF CHILDREN AWARDS: Making a Difference

The Power of Children Awards recognizes individual young people in Grades 6 through 11 who have created a powerful project, program or nonprofit organization to address a community need or social cause.

ADULT NOMINATORS

Are you a teacher, counselor, advisor, coach, youth group leader, or other adult who knows a young person who is changing our world for the better?

If so, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, the world's biggest and best museum serving children and families, is thrilled to offer you the opportunity to nominate an amazing young person in your school, organization, or community to be considered for a Power of Children Award.

HOW TO APPLY:

Young people must be nominated for the Power of Children Awards (POCA). Nominations are accepted ONLINE ONLY (through the AwardSpring application system at childrensmuseum.org/award-spring). Each application consists of three parts:

- (1) the Adult Nominator form
- (2) the Parent/Guardian permission form
- (3) the Youth Nominee form

ALL PARTS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED BY MIDNIGHT (11:59 P.M. EST) ON SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021.

Each part of the application asks general questions (including name and contact information). Youth nominees are also required to **provide three adult references** with contact information. The main section of the adult nominator and youth nominee's sections are four essay questions. Think about each question and gather information to help you answer them. We suggest drafting your answers in a Word document first (paying attention to the word count), and then cutting and pasting your responses into the online AwardSpring form.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The four independent essay questions that follow relate to four themes upon which the POCA Adjudication Committee will base its scoring of applications:

- Need Addressed
- Impact Achieved
- Learning and Skills Developed
- Engagement/Empowerment Continued

Each question must be answered and will be judged separately. **Each essay answer must be 200 words or less.**

THE POWER OF CHILDREN AWARDS ESTABLISHED BY

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Charitable Trust

WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



ADULT NOMINATORS

Important: Answers to these essay questions should not be copied from the Youth Nominees's application; they must be answered in your own words and from your own perspective.

NEED ADDRESSED: Share how the youth became aware of a need or cause facing the community or world and what they did to address it. In your answer, please explain:

- How does the project, program, or organization address the need/cause that the youth identified?
- Why do you think the need/cause is important to address?

IMPACT ACHIEVED: Share how the nominee's project, program, or organization has made a real impact (short-term and/or long-term) and what the nominee and others have given to it (time, talents, and resources donated and invested). In your answer, please explain:

- What impact or difference do you think their service work has made to address the need or cause it serves? Share what you specifically know or what others have shared with you (other than the youth).
- What specifically have you witnessed the nominee give to the project? Please include time and different talents and resources that they donated and/or invested, if applicable.
- In what ways did the nominee inspire others to give to their service initiative (including time, talents, and resources contributed to it)? Please share whether you witnessed the contributions or how you know about them.

LEARNING AND SKILLS DEVELOPED: Share how you have seen the nominee change and grow through the course of their service work. In your answer, please explain:

- What specific activities, programs, events, etc. did the nominee carry out for the service initiative?
- What specific skills have they used and developed? Examples include understanding different perspectives, written communication, public speaking, critical thinking, problem solving, project planning, recruiting and motivating volunteers, teamwork, leadership, organizing events and donation drives, marketing, analyzing information, and fundraising.
- Share what you believe the nominee has learned about topics related to their project, program or organization.

ENGAGEMENT/EMPOWERMENT CONTINUED: Share how the nominee plans to continue to support their initiative or cause, and how you think they will use funds from the Power of Children Awards. In your answer, please explain:

- How will the nominee continue to be engaged in their initiative or cause going forward?
- Share what you may know about how the nominee will use the funding provided by the Power of Children Awards.
- In your opinion, how would receiving a Power of Children Award further empower the nominee?

YOUTH NOMINEE

The youth application must be completed AFTER the following have been submitted through AwardSpring:

- (1) a nomination form by an Adult Nominator and
- (2) the Parent/Guardian form that gives the youth permission to be considered for the award.

Important: These essay questions should not be copied directly from the Adult Nominator's application, and must be answered in your own words and from your own perspective.

NEED ADDRESSED: Share the story of how you became aware of a need or cause facing your community or world and what you did to address it. In your answer, please explain:

- Why did you think the need you identified was important and had to be addressed?
- Specifically, how did your project, program, or organization help to fill the need or address the cause?

IMPACT ACHIEVED: Share how your project, program, or nonprofit organization has made a real impact (short-term and/or long-term) and what you and others have given to it (time, talents, and resources donated and invested).

In your answer, please explain:

- What impact or difference do you think your service work has made to address the need or cause in your community or elsewhere? Please share specifics, such as how many people have benefited from your efforts.
- What have you given to the project, program, or organization? Include how much time you contributed and the different talents and resources that you donated and invested.
- How have you inspired others to give to your service initiative? Include time, talents, and resources they have given. Share specific numbers where possible (such as how many people volunteered, what activities volunteers were involved in, how much money people gave, and what types of other items people gave).

LEARNING AND SKILLS DEVELOPED: Share how you have grown in skills and knowledge through the course of your service work.

In your answer, please explain:

- What specific activities, programs, events, etc. have you carried out?
- What specific skills did you use and develop? Examples include understanding different perspectives, using written communication, doing public speaking, organizing fundraisers, deploying volunteers, and problem solving.
- Share what you have learned about topics related to your cause. Did anything surprise you? What do you want to learn more about?

ENGAGEMENT/EMPOWERMENT CONTINUED: Share how you plan to continue your project, program, or nonprofit organization, or support its cause, and explain how the funds from the Power of Children Awards will be used. Please include:

- How do you plan to continue being involved?
- How will you use the funding provided by the Power of Children Awards? How will receiving additional funds empower you? Please be specific!