

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

THE POWER OF CHILDREN AWARDS

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

HOW TO APPLY:

Young people must be nominated for the Power of Children Awards (POCA). Nominations are taken **ONLINE ONLY** (through the AwardSpring application system at childrensmuseum.org/awardspring). Each application consists of three parts: (1) the Adult Nominator form, (2) the Parent/Guardian permission form, and (3) the Youth Nominee form. **ALL PARTS MUST BE COMPLETE AND SUBMITTED BY MIDNIGHT (11:59 P.M. EST) ON MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020.**

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 include four essay questions that will take some time to complete. First, think about each question and gather information to help you answer them. We suggest drafting your answers in a Word document (paying attention to the word count), and then pasting your responses into the online AwardSpring form.

For questions about the POCA application or process, please contact:

Luana Nissan, Program Manager, The Power of Children Awards, Nissan@childrensmuseum.org or 317-334-3821.

ADULT NOMINATOR

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 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.

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, and Engagement/Empowerment Continued. Each essay must be answered and will be judged separately. **Each essay answer must be 200 words or less.**

Important: Answers to these essay questions should not be copied by the Adult Nominator directly from the Youth'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 she/he/they did to address it. In your answer, please explain:

- How does the project address the need/cause that the Youth identified?
- Why do you think the need/cause is important to address?

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

- What impact or difference do you think the project 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 Youth give to the project? Please include time and different talents and resources that he/she/they donated and/or invested, if applicable.

- In what ways did the Youth inspire others to give to his/her/their project (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 Youth change and grow through the course of her/his/their project.

In your answer, please explain:

- What specific activities, programs, events, etc. did the Youth carry out for her/his/their project?
- What specific skills has he/she/they used and developed as a part of the project's activities and programs? 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 Youth has learned about topics related to her/his/their cause or project.

ENGAGEMENT/EMPOWERMENT CONTINUED: Share how the Youth plans to continue to support the project or cause, and how you think the Youth will use funds from the Power of Children Awards.

In your answer, please explain:

- How will the Youth continue to be engaged in his/her project or the cause she/he has been supporting going forward?
- If you know how the Youth will use the funding provided by the Power of Children Awards, please share this.
- In your opinion, how would receiving a Power of Children Award further *empower* the Youth?

the power OF CHILDREN AWARDS: Making a Difference

YOUTH NOMINEE

The Youth Nominee application must be filled out completely by the Youth 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.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The four independent essay questions that follow relate to four themes upon which the Power of Children Awards (POCA) Adjudication Committee will base its scoring of applications: Need Addressed, Impact Achieved, Learning and Skills Developed, and Engagement/Empowerment Continued. Each essay will be judged separately and must be answered. **Each essay answer must be 200 words or less.**

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 the 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 help to fill the need or address the cause?

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

In your answer, please explain:

- What impact or difference do you think your project 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? 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 project or cause? Include time, talents, and resources others have given. Share specific numbers, where possible (such as how many people volunteered, what project 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 project.

In your answer, please explain:

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

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

In your answer, please explain:

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