

represent
THE VOICE OF YOUTH IN CARE

Awards for Youth New York City Teens Only in Foster Care

5 Grand Prizes of \$1,000 each

15 Additional Prizes: \$400 - \$600

Youth Communication is sponsoring an award to promote a more positive image of New York City foster youth among agency staff, youth workers, and the general public. Twenty young people will be awarded prize money at a ceremony in June 2012. Five Grand Prize winners will receive \$1,000 each, and 15 additional winners will receive prizes of \$400 to \$600 each. The prize money can be spent however the winner likes, although it is recommended that it be spent on education-related activities.

General Rules

Who Can Nominate a Young Person: Entrants can be nominated by any adult (including teachers, mentors, agency staff, youth workers, religious leaders, foster parents, biological parents). The adult must write a letter of recommendation for the young person. Adults should nominate young people who have shown resilience, helped others, and achieved personal and academic success. Each nominator may nominate one young person.

Who Is Eligible to Be Nominated: Any current or former foster youth in the New York City foster care system who was born in 1991 or later. People born before 1991 are not eligible.

Grand Prize winners from previous years are not eligible. Other previous winners may apply.

How the winners will be selected: A judging committee will read all entries and choose the winners. The decision of the judges is final.

All entries become property of Youth Communication.

To Apply:

- 1) Complete form on reverse side
- 2) Get adult recommendation
- 3) Write both essays
- 4) Mail packet

For additional forms: www.youthcomm.org

You have to write two essays for this year's contest. The first essay must be fewer than 1,000 words. The second essay must be fewer than 500 words. If your essays are too long it will count against you. Here are the instructions for the two essays:

Essay #1. If you're in foster care, chances are you have a dramatic life story. It is never easy to know how or how much to tell, or who to tell it to. Write an essay on one of these topics.

- a time you told something deeply personal to someone; or
- a time you wanted to tell someone about your life, but decided not to.

Describe what happened. Do you feel like you made the right decision about sharing or not sharing your story or do you regret it? What did you learn from the experience? What should others—friends, parents and foster parents, teachers, caseworkers—know about telling painful stories?

Essay #2. Describe a time when you did something that you felt made a positive impact on someone else. Why was it important to the person you helped? To you? (This can include helping siblings, volunteering, or any other time when you went out of your way to help someone else.)

Hint: A good essay will include a detailed description of your experience and, most important, reflection on how the experience changed your thinking or inspired you.

Extended Deadline: Postmarked by March 14, 2012

for submitting the entry form and all accompanying materials.

Mail to:
Virginia Vitzthum
Represent-Awards for Youth in Foster Care
224 W. 29th St., 2nd fl.
New York, NY 10001



(over)

Deadline (extended): March 14, 2012



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL **represent!**
THE VOICE OF YOUTH IN CARE
Awards for Youth
New York City Teens Only
in Foster Care

Please print neatly or type

Today's Date _____

Information About the Young Person Being Nominated

Name _____ E-mail _____

Street Address _____ Telephone _____

Borough _____ State _____ Zip _____

Young Person's Agency _____

Total Length of Time in Foster Care _____ Dates of Time in Foster Care (From _____ to _____)

Current School Grade (if any) _____ Current School (if any) _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Information About the Adult Making the Nomination

Name _____ E-mail _____

Agency _____ Title _____

Agency Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How Do You Know the Young Person You're Nominating? _____

(Note: Each young person must be nominated by an adult. Each application must be accompanied by the items below.)

Attached (Please Staple to This Form):

- Essay #1
- Essay #2
- Adult Letter of Recommendation

Questions?
Call Virginia Vitzthum
at 212-279-0708,
ext. 112

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Note: Do not write, rewrite, or type the essay for your nominee. Feel free to read a draft and ask them questions about their ideas, or make general suggestions, but do not do any of the writing for them. The essay must be the work of the young person. (We're not looking for a perfectly written essay. While we encourage the young person to get help with proofreading, spelling, and other minor mistakes, we will give much more weight to the ideas presented than to perfect spelling and grammar.) Please note: We can tell when a young person's essay has been reworked or written by an adult, and that will disqualify it.