

New York City
youth only:

AWARDS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

represent
THE VOICE OF YOUTH IN CARE

5 Grand Prizes of \$1,000 each 10 Additional Prizes: \$500 - \$700

Youth Communication sponsors this award to promote a more positive image of New York City foster youth among agency staff, youth workers, and the general public. Fifteen young people will be awarded prize money at a ceremony in spring, 2016. Five Grand Prize winners will receive \$1,000 each, and 10 additional winners will receive prizes of \$500 to \$700 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 1995 or later. People born before 1995 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.

You must write two essays. 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.

Essay #1 Write about one thing you did to make your life better when you were in care. It could be pushing for change in your agency, finding a way to cope, or something else. How did you realize what you wanted to change? How did you plan, what did you do, and how did it feel to succeed? If you had to convince others along the way, how did you do that?

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.

To Apply:

- 1) Complete form on reverse side
- 2) Get an adult to nominate you and write your letter of recommendation
- 3) Write both essays
- 4) Mail packet to:
Virginia Vitzthum
Represent-Awards for Youth in Foster Care
242 W. 38th St., 6th fl.
New York, NY 10018

Deadline: March 4, 2016

Your complete entry, including the entry form, two essays, and adult recommendation letter, must be postmarked by March 4, 2016.

All entries become property of Youth Communication. Winning essays will be edited for brevity and clarity and printed in the program.

Thank you to the Sunny and Abe Rosenberg Foundation, the Tin Man Fund, and the College Board for supporting this year's Awards.



YOUTH COMMUNICATION'S EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL

represent! THE VOICE OF YOUTH IN CARE

New York City youth only:

AWARDS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

Deadline: March 4, 2016

Please print neatly or type

Today's Date _____

Information About the Young Person Being Nominated

Name _____ E-mail _____

Street Address _____ Apt. # _____ 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 _____

If you win, do you want your name to appear with your essay on our website and in the program? _____

Information About the Adult Making the Nomination

Name _____ E-mail _____

Agency _____ Title _____

Agency Address _____ Room # _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How Do You Know the Young Person You're Nominating? (Note: Each young person must be nominated by an adult.)

Note to nominators: 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.) We can tell when a young person's essay has been reworked or written by an adult, and that will disqualify it.

Attached (Please Staple to This Form):

- Essay #1
Essay #2
Adult Letter of Recommendation

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

Must be postmarked by March 4, 2016

Submit entry form, essays, and letter of recommendation to: Virginia Vitzthum Represent-Awards for Youth in Foster Care 242 W. 38th St., 6th fl. New York, NY 10018