

What are The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards? The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were created in 1995 to recognize students in middle and high school grades who have demonstrated exemplary community service. These prestigious awards, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), are presented annually on the local, state and national level.

How does the program work?

1. Young volunteers in grades 5-12 complete applications online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or www.nassp.org/spirit by November 1, 2011, and then submit them to their school principals or to the head of one of these officially designated local organizations: a Girl Scout council, county 4-H group, American Red Cross chapter, YMCA, or affiliate of HandsOn Network. Applicants and their parents also must sign the application form's signature page and fax it to (615) 627-9697 or upload it on the application site.
2. Each participating school or organization reviews the applications of its students and selects one middle level Local Honoree for every 1,000 students in grades 5-8, and/or one high school Local Honoree for every 1,000 students in grades 9-12.
3. Principals or organization heads certify applications of their selected Local Honorees online by November 8, 2011.
4. The top high school and middle level youth volunteer in each state and the District of Columbia are named State Honorees in February, and from two to ten runners-up in each state are named Distinguished Finalists.
5. Ten of the State Honorees are named America's top ten youth volunteers of the year by a distinguished national selection committee at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., in May.

What do honorees receive?

Local Honorees receive Certificates of Achievement from their schools or organizations. Those who qualify also receive the President's Volunteer Service Award. State Honorees receive \$1,000, engraved silver medallions, and an all-expense-paid trip with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., in May for several days of recognition events, including award ceremonies, sight-seeing tours, and Congressional visits on Capitol Hill. Distinguished Finalists (runners-up at the state level) receive engraved bronze medallions. Other top applicants at the state level receive Certificates of Excellence. National Honorees receive additional \$5,000 awards, engraved gold medallions, and crystal trophies for their schools or organizations. They also receive \$5,000 grants from The Prudential Foundation for nonprofit charitable organizations of their choice.

Who is eligible?

Any student who: is in grades 5-12 as of November 1, 2011, and is a legal resident of one of the 50 states of the United States or the District of Columbia has engaged in a volunteer activity that occurred at least in part after September 1, 2010 completes an application and submits it to a school principal or the head of an officially designated local organization by November 1, 2011. Nearly 100,000 young people have been honored with Prudential Spirit of Community Awards over the past 16 years!

WATCH FOR THESE DEADLINES:

September 2011 Online application form is available at <http://spirit.prudential.com> and www.nassp.org/spirit. Program information is mailed to all middle level and high schools and to officially designated local organizations (see below).

November 1, 2011 Deadline for students to complete applications online, submit applications to a school principal or the head of an officially designated local organization, and fax signed signature page to (615) 627-9697.

November 2 - 8, 2011 Participating schools and organizations review applications and select Local Honorees, then nominate them for state-level judging by certifying their applications online.

February 7, 2012 Judges name the top middle level and high school youth volunteer in every state and the District of Columbia as State Honorees.

May 5-8, 2012 102 State Honorees attend national recognition events in Washington, D.C., at which time America's top ten youth volunteers of the year are announced.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program is widely supported! The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The program is supported by the National 4-H Council, Girl Scouts of the USA, American Red Cross, HandsOn Network (generated by the Points of Light Institute), YMCA of the USA, the America's Promise Alliance, United National Indian Tribal Youth, the American Association of School Administrators, the Council of the Great City Schools, the National Middle School Association, the National School Boards Association, the National School Public Relations Association, and other national organizations.

Applicants must submit completed applications to one of the following:

A middle level or high school

A Girl Scout council

A county 4-H organization

An American Red Cross chapter

A YMCA

An affiliate of HandsOn Network

For more information: <http://spirit.prudential.com> or

www.nassp.org/spirit

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