

How & Why to Apply for the 2020 Excellence in Summer Service Education Award

This recognition award highlights the work, commitment and service young people provide our community as full-time staff or volunteers in Marion County summer youth programs.

Every summer, young people lead recreational, educational, and cultural activities. They serve as camp counselors to children. They supervise the work of other youth and adults. Some even manage programs. For many young people, this is a first work experience that provides opportunities and important skill-building experiences their peers miss. Camp jobs often fuel a desire to pursue youth service careers or meaningfully engage in volunteer community service. Learning from the children whom they serve, young people are awakened to the very real needs of families and children whose lives are sometimes more challenging than their own. Through their work, young people make a difference in their program, neighborhoods and community; they choose instead to work or volunteer in summer programs because their service matters.

To recognize exemplary youth work and community service by youth, **up to 25** young people will receive an **Excellence in Summer Service Education Award**: a portfolio and a \$1,000 check to be used for education-related expenses. **

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Applicants must be high school or undergrads aged 15-22 who worked **at least 20 hours a week for three weeks** as a paid or volunteer staff member of a 2020 summer youth program funded through the Summer Youth Program Fund (SYPF.) Eligible applicants must have:

- served in a 2020 SYPF-funded program a minimum of three weeks working directly with youth;
- performed his/her assignment with skill and enthusiasm, served as a good representative of her/his program and demonstrated an understanding of good youth-work practices;
- been a positive role model for children and his/her peers;
- had no major infraction of program policy related to attendance, performance, or safety;
- shown motivation to pursue high academic achievement;
- **not previously received the Excellence in Summer Service Education Award**; and
- been a **permanent resident of the state of Indiana** (not an out of state living fulltime in IN).

High school students are strongly encouraged to apply. Excellence is found in simple acts of leadership and caring that can be seen in young people of any age by the youth they are working with. **The award cannot be used by students in graduate school.**

** Education-related expenses include: buying books or computers, paying school tuition or fees for a special learning experience, or making a deposit to an education account or savings plan. Education accounts and education savings plans (e.g. a 529 program) can be set up through local financial institutions. Some saving plans allow you to deposit money tax-free. **Depending on the award recipient's total income for 2020, the award MAY HAVE TAX consequences.**

This is not a scholarship. Award recipients will be responsible for any federal or state income taxes due. The recipient may need to consult a tax adviser.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete the Personal Contact Information Form and Essay Questions. Hand-written responses are accepted (but they are hard to read and to copy); typed responses are preferred. We are providing a word file and a fillable PDF if you have a computer or use of one at your summer program. The application and any attached pages should not exceed three pages. The Personal Contact Information Form (2 pgs.) and the Supervisor's Recommendation (2 pgs) do not count as part of the application but must be included with the Application at submission. **The application must be completed by the applicant unless a disability prevents this. Don't forget to sign the Personal Contact Information form!**
- **Have your supervisor complete the Recommendation Form**, endorsed by the executive director of the agency. This form **MUST** accompany the application and can be placed in a separate, sealed envelope, if preferred. A typed recommendation is preferred (you can email them this file) (hand written is harder to make copies)
- Mail, e-mail, or hand-deliver the Application, Recommendation Form, and Personal Contact Information Form by 5:30pm on AUGUST 12 to:
MCCOY, Inc.
1375 W. 16th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
Attention: John Brandon, President
or email to juli.vanwyk@mccoyouth.org
- Applications may be submitted anytime after July 20th if your program has ended before that date. **ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS (your application and Supervisor recommendation) MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE MCCOY OFFICE NO LATER THAN 5:30PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020 TO BE CONSIDERED. LATE AND INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE AWARD. (Do NOT send google docs)**
- Applications will be reviewed by an independent committee of community leaders from around Marion County and MCCOY staff. Awards will be determined, and award recipients will be notified BY EMAIL no later than **August 30, 2020**.
- To be determined: Award recipients will be invited to an on-line awards reception scheduled on **(in early September on a date and time TBD)**. Award checks and certificates will be mailed directly to you after that reception. Each winner will be allowed to invite family members to attend and program supervisors are welcomed and encouraged to attend as well. Details will be announced later in the summer.

Questions? Call John Brandon at 921-1266 ext 101

MCCOY, Inc. is pleased to manage the Excellence in Summer Service Award program on behalf of the Summer Youth Program Fund.
Learn more about the Summer Youth Program Fund and its collaborative members at www.summeryouthprogramfund-indy.org

To learn more about MCCOY, Inc, *which champions the positive development of youth through leadership on key issues and support of the youth worker community*, visit us at www.mccoyouth.org.

TIPS FOR STRONG APPLICATIONS

We're thrilled to see a growing number of summer program youth staff taking the time and energy to apply for an Excellence in Summer Service Education Award. We look forward to reading your application!

Below are a few tips for a good application.

1. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY WON, you are ineligible to apply again.
2. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY APPLIED, BUT HAVE NOT WON, we welcome your 2019 application!
3. IF YOU ARE HEADING TO UNIVERSITY/POST-SECONDARY TRAINING IN THE FALL: It is not necessary for you to attend an *Indiana* post-secondary school. **However, if 1) your permanent address (usually your parents/guardian) is out-of-state, 2) you attend school out-of-state, and 3) were only in Central Indiana to work this summer, we will not accept an application.** We welcome your call if your situation is unique and should be given consideration. (Contact John Brandon at 317.921.1266.)
4. While the **2020 DEADLINE is 5:30pm WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020**, you may submit your application earlier. Your application must either be received via mail, e-mail, or submitted in person, to

MCCOY 1375 W. 16th Street 46202 or e-mailed to julil.vanwyk@mccoyouth.org
5. The application deadline is FIRM (including Supervisors' recommendation letter). We will not consider late or incomplete applications.
6. Refrain from making general statements. Share examples, moments that caused you to reflect, experiences that changed you or gave you a "wake up" moment. We want to know the difference the experience has made in your life – personally and professionally (skills you learned), and what has changed in your perspective?
7. Ask someone to read your responses, to check your language to ensure that you are using the best words to describe your experience, that you are making thought-filled statements (especially if you're a college student.) Ask for an honest appraisal of your application before you submit it.
8. Urge your supervisor (the person sending in a recommendation **with** your application) to write from personal experience with you, rather than submitting the same letter for all applicants from your summer program. This letter is important!
9. Your letter of recommendation cannot come from a relative. If a relative was your supervisor or summer program director, your letter of recommendation must come from another supervising staff member who can objectively attest to your work ethic, quality of work, interaction with program participants.

This award is provided by *The Summer Youth Program Funding Partners:*

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