



2025 CAPITAL DISTRICT KIWANIS TEENAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Local clubs of Kiwanis International are seeking applicants for the 2025 Teenager of the Year Award. Kiwanis is an international organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. The purpose of this award is to give recognition to deserving teenagers for their service to their school and community, citizenship, leadership performance, character and academic achievements. If the nominee continues through the competition process at club, division and district levels, the finalist will be awarded the title of 2025 Capital District Teenager of the Year, \$2,500.00 and a trip with their parents/guardians to the Kiwanis District Convention, August 22-24, 2025, in Arlington, VA.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Capital District Teenager of the Year Award welcomes applications from young people who are between the ages of 13 and 19 (not yet age 19) and are currently residing in DC, DE, MD, WV or VA. The following criteria will be used in choosing winners:

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

- Demonstrated a consistent and dedicated commitment to community service;
- Demonstrated positive spirit, courage, academic achievement, generosity and high moral purpose;
- Showed initiative, tenacity and unselfishness in pursuit of their community service efforts;
- Accomplished something that inspired others to make a positive difference in their community; and
- Made an impact beyond themselves that improved their community or the volunteer organization they support.

Statement of non-discrimination: The Capital District of Kiwanis International and the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation do not discriminate on the basis of any applicable protected classification including, but not limited to race, color, creed, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, age or sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity.

AWARD INCLUDES:

- \$2500 funded by the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation (choice of CD, check or savings bond)
- Recognition certificate
- Trip to the Kiwanis Capital District Convention August 22-24, 2025 in Arlington, VA.
- Recognition in the Kiwanis Capital District Convention program booklet and *The Capital Kiwanian* Summer edition

TIMELINE

November 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025 at 5 p.m. ET: Students may apply online. Only complete applications will be accepted. No applications will be considered that are submitted after that date and time.

No later than March 1, 2025: Kiwanis Clubs will select and notify club winners and submit certified names to their Lt. Governor.

No later than April 1, 2025: Divisions will select and notify division winners and submit certified names to the Teenager of the Year District Chairperson.

No later than May 1, 2025: The district level winner will have been selected and the certified name sent to the District Governor.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Online application process (Applicants will receive email notification upon submission.)

Download Application Guidelines Here

<https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/teenager-of-the-year/>

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Please read these requirements carefully before you begin the application process. Applications must be completed and submitted by our deadline of 5:00 p.m. EST on January 31, 2025. Please contact us well in advance of our deadline for any technical assistance. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE. ONLY FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Applications require basic information about yourself: name, address, current grade, phone and email contacts to reach you. We also require that you provide a personal statement from you and three (3) recommendations from adults who are unrelated to you. A recommendation is an adult advocate who has knowledge of your activities. For example: school faculty members, supervisors at a non-profit where you volunteer, business leaders, employers or religious leaders.

This award is about service to others and we want your recommendations to speak to why your community service involvement is worthy of being selected as the Capital District Teenager of the Year. Please make sure the person who is writing your recommendation addresses the following:

- Describe this student's local or national community service efforts.
- Why have they made a difference in the community?
- How have their efforts improved their community?

Please provide a copy of these guidelines to the persons who will be writing your recommendations.

Recommendation letters **MUST** be uploaded to the application unless prohibited by a school district or organization. Do not submit your application until all letters are uploaded.

The only exception is that if a reference is not allowed to personally provide you with the letter, they may instead email the reference to toy@capitalkiwanis.org and include a statement saying they are not authorized to share the letter with you.

All required fields and requested materials must be completed and uploaded before you can submit your application. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Contents of the application are considered public information once submitted and should not include private or privileged information. Please use your full legal name. If you are known by a nickname, you may include it on the application where indicated. Please use a permanent address, phone number, and email address (not a school email address). You are given 30 days from the time you open and begin the application to review, revise and submit all required documents. THIS INFORMATION CANNOT BE CHANGED ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED.

Correspondence regarding your application will primarily be through email. Your application will need to be signed by you and one or more Parent/Guardian to certify the validity of your application and authorize the use of your information.

STATEMENT OF NOMINEE

Statements are judged on creativity, content, style, punctuation, spelling and grammar. Your statement should range from 250 - 750 words, and must address the following three questions:

1. What three things have you learned during your community service experiences and how did these efforts result in a positive impact upon the community?
2. What have you learned from your community service and volunteer efforts about yourself and about the world around you?
3. How do you plan to incorporate those lessons learned into your future plans?

ENGAGEMENT

1. Indicate the grade in which each honor, award, office, or membership applies (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12). If the same honor/award was received in multiple grades, list the honor/award only once, but indicate all grades the honor/award was received.
2. Take care to list school awards, school-related curricular activities, school-related extracurricular activities, and non-school related activities in the proper section of the application.
3. Do not duplicate memberships. For example, membership in band for grades 10-11-12 and elected band president for grade 12 yields two years of membership where no office was held (10-11) and one year of office/position of leadership (12). Selection for all district, all-region, and/or all-state band is considered additional honors and awards and should also be included.

Example:

School-Related Curricular Activities and Awards (Academic)

Junior Year: National Honor Society – member
Spanish Club
All-City Jazz Band
All – A Honor Roll

Senior Year: National Honor Society - President
Drama Club
All-State Jazz Band

School-Related Extracurricular Activities and Awards (Non-Academic)

Freshman Year: Key Club – Member

Sophomore Year: Interact – Member
Varsity Indoor Track – team member
Key Club – Vice-President
Junior Year: Key Club – President
Varsity Indoor Track – Team Captain
Senior Year: Key Club – Lt. Governor
Varsity Indoor Track – Team Captain
Selected School Peer Tutor of the Year for 75 hours of service to students at East End Elementary School

Community and Employment Activities (Non-School Related)

Freshman Year: Ballet Company of Virginia – taught 5-7 year olds - 20 hours
Internship with Warner Graphics Art Studio – helped create newsletter for church youth group - 10 hours
Sophomore Year: Vacation Bible School – Assisted in arts with 10 children at Poquoson Methodist Church for one week – 5 hours
Spaghetti Dinner – I organized this fundraiser for 100 participants to raise money for our mission trip to Southwest Virginia. – 15 hours

Community Service Awards

Senior Year: Key Club Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lt. Governor Award – nominated by the Key Clubs in my division for my leadership as Lt. Governor
Church Student Youth Leader of the Year – awarded for outstanding service to Habitat to Humanity – 30 hours in West Virginia

Contact us at toy@capitalkiwanis.org