



DOING THE MOST GOOD™



# Youth of the Year

Since 1947, Youth of the Year has been one of Salvation Army's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Chartered Community Center members. Each year, one exceptional Community Center member is selected to be the Divisional Youth of the Year. The Divisional Youth of the Year serves as both an exemplary ambassador for Boys & Girls Club youth and as a strong voice for all of our nation's young people.

The journey to being named Divisional Youth of the Year begins locally and progresses to the Divisional level. To achieve the title of Youth of the Year on any level, Community Center members must embody the values of leadership and service; academic excellence; and healthy lifestyles. They should exemplify the critical impact that Chartered Community Centers have on the lives of young people.



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Dear Chartered Community Center Leaders:

Now is an exciting time in the history of the Youth of the Year (YOY) program. The most significant change in this year's application and selection process is a new focus on leadership, character and service; academic excellence; and healthy lifestyles, making this the first time that YOYs will be identified using all three priority outcome areas that drive our Movement-wide agenda.

For instance, the three required letters of recommendation should describe candidates' experience and aptitude in terms of: (1) leadership, character and service; (2) academic excellence; and (3) healthy lifestyles.

In addition, candidates are required to write essays about (1) their Community Center Experience; (2) their vision for America's youth; and (3) what they strive to stand for in the minds and hearts of those who know them, i.e., their personal brand as individuals and leaders.

I hope you find that the revised application materials enhance the Youth of the Year process and clarify the direction in which this venerable and dynamic program is headed. Right now and for the years to come, we will realize a Youth of the Year experience as grand and inspiring as the young people who earn the title. We look forward to this year's showcasing of youth, and welcome your leadership in guiding our continuing steps.

Sincerely,

Wesley Sharpe  
NSC Divisional Boys & Girls Clubs  
and Chartered Community Center Director



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### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**Restrictions** – Candidates previously named NSC Divisional Youth of the Year are not eligible to participate at the Divisional Level again. In multi-unit organizations, only one candidate (i.e., the Youth of the Year selected to represent the entire organization) may advance to the state and successive levels.

**Application** – Only the current application materials will be accepted. Applications must be received no later than the due date. Applications may not be altered once submitted. Applications, including supporting materials, will NOT be returned.

**Age** – Candidates must be no older than 18 years of age on Jan. 31, of that current year, to participate in the judging process at the state level.

**Club attendance** – Candidates must have a record of active and continuing membership in a Community Center for at least two years.

**Identification** – Acceptable forms of identification include: state-issued driver's license or learner's permit, birth certificate, U.S. passport, Social Security card, certificate of citizenship and naturalization, employment authorization number or Native American identification card. U.S. citizenship is not required.

**YOY status** – Candidates advancing to the Divisional level must have been named Youth of the Year for their organization during the current program year. The organization's Corps Officer or Executive Director must sign and approve candidates' applications.



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## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **Who completes the application?**

A professional Community Center staff member is assigned to assist the candidate with completion of the application. Candidates should strive to make a favorable first impression on the judges by ensuring the application materials are professional and well-assembled.

### **How/when are applications submitted?**

Completion of this application requires timely submission of all the materials outlined on the checklist (page 10). Only complete applications will be processed and forwarded to the judges for consideration. Please ensure all materials are included in the packet.

### **Applications must be physically mailed to:**

The Salvation Army  
Boys & Girls Clubs and Community Center Department  
501 Archdale Drive  
Charlotte NC 28217

All applications must be received on or before the deadline date.

### **What happens after submission?**

After the deadline, all complete and approved applications will enter the selection process.



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# CHECKLIST

Check off each item on this page to ensure that the application packet is complete. All applications must include each item noted below.

Note: Once applications are submitted, they cannot be altered!

### Forms

- Form A: Candidate Nomination
- Form B: Candidate Qualifications
- Form C: Candidate Acknowledgment

### Essays

- Essay 1 – My Community Center Experience
- Essay 2 – My Vision for America's Youth
- Essay 3 – My Personal Brand

### Recommendations

- Leadership, Character & Service
- Academic Excellence
- Healthy Lifestyles

### Supporting Materials

Two Supporting Documents:

*These can be awards/certificates, articles, resumes, etc., that uniquely demonstrate the candidate's achievements and skills in the three outcome areas.*

Official high school transcript

Photocopy of government-issued ID

*This can be one of the following forms of identification: state-issued driver's license or learner's permit, birth certificate, U.S. passport, Social Security card, certificate of citizenship and naturalization, employment authorization number, or Native American identification card. U.S. citizenship is NOT required.*



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## FORM A: CANDIDATE NOMINATION

Personal Information	Nominee's Full Name (First MI Last)		DOB (MM-DD-YYYY)	Social Security Number	Gender F      M	
	Race/Ethnicity					
	American Indian / Alaska Native		Asian	Black/African-American	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander
	White/Caucasian		Don't know			
	Street Address			Line 2 (apt, suite, etc.)		
	City, State, ZIP Code		Telephone Number		Email Address	
	High School Name			Projected Graduation Date		
	Tentative College Choice			Anticipated Career Choice		
Length of Community Center Membership		Number of Volunteer Hours (in the last 12 months)				
Organization Information	Name of Salvation Army Organization			Unit/Extension		
	Street Address			Line 2 (apt, suite, etc.)		
	City, State, ZIP Code		Center Phone Number		Fax Number	
	Name of Corps Officer or Executive Director		Telephone Number		Email Address	
	Name of Designated Contact for this Form		Telephone Number		Email Address	

# FORM B: CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

Type directly in the space provided below to answer each question.

Provide the top three reasons you should be chosen as Divisional Youth of the Year.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Provide three examples of your academic excellence, including advanced courses taken, extracurricular academic activities and awards.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Provide three examples of your service, including community service projects, service learning projects, volunteerism and activism.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Provide three examples of your commitment to healthy lifestyles, including sports, fitness, nutrition, and attitude toward drugs and alcohol.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Provide three examples of what you hope to accomplish as Divisional Youth of the Year.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

# ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

Please respond to each of the following questions with as much thought and clarity as possible. **Essays must be typed and clearly labeled.** You may use the provided forms or type the essays separately in Word or another word processing program. Attach the completed essays as part of the application packet. Please note that essays will be judged based on content, writing style, clarity and grammar. You are encouraged to work with staff members at your Community Center to develop well-written, compelling essays.

## ESSAY TOPICS

Essay 1: My (CCC) Chartered  
Community Center  
Experience

Essay 2: My Vision for America's Youth

Essay 3: My Personal Brand



# ESSAY ONE: MY CCC EXPERIENCE

Describe your time in the Community Center, including how long you've been a member, key aspects of your Community Center involvement, and the most important contributions the Community Center has made to your academic, personal and leadership development. Please share any ways in which the Community Center has helped you overcome challenges or obstacles that you may have experienced. Be sure to highlight any significant leadership roles you've held at the Community Center, as well as other participation in Community Center programs, service initiatives, etc.

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## ESSAY TWO: MY VISION FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

The Divisional Youth of the Year is The Salvation Army's ambassador for America's young people. He/she represents the interests of millions of young people and elevates important youth issues by engaging with elected officials, corporations, the media, educators and the broader public. Please describe your vision for America's youth and which significant challenge you would address as the Divisional Youth of the Year. Please describe this challenge in detail, as well as the experiences that helped you develop your perspective about it. In what ways can Community Centers help other youth who are facing this challenge? Complete your essay by briefly presenting one clear solution to address the challenge.

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# ESSAY THREE: MY PERSONAL BRAND

In the 21st century, each of us has a brand, just like a company or a product. We stand for something in the minds and hearts of our friends, teachers, mentors, family members and associates. As the Divisional Youth of the Year, your personal brand will become co-mingled with Community Centers brand. Which qualities define your personal brand? Which three adjectives describe your personal brand, and why? What do you stand for in the hearts and minds of those who know you? What are your goals and purpose in life? How would being the Divisional Youth of the Year help you build your personal brand?

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# RECOMMENDATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Divisional Youth of the Year is primarily selected on the basis of the candidate's leadership experiences and potential; character; commitment to community service; standards of academic achievement; and commitment to leading a long-term healthy lifestyle. The purpose of these letters of recommendation is to clarify how the candidate exemplifies the qualities of a Divisional Youth of the Year in each of the categories. Caring adults who can directly comment on the candidate's experiences and abilities in each area should be asked to write recommendations. Please include contact information for each letter writer.

## RECOMMENDATION AREAS

Recommendation 1: Leadership, Character & Service

Recommendation 2: Academic Excellence

Recommendation 3: Healthy Lifestyles

# LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER & SERVICE RECOMMENDATION

This letter should be written by a Community Center professional.

Please discuss the candidate's suitability to hold the title of National Youth of the Year, with a particular emphasis on his/her commitment to leadership, character and community service. Address the candidate's values, interests, goals, ambitions and experiences as a leader and team member within the Community Center community. You are encouraged to include Community Center, family, school, service and other leadership experiences as examples to highlight the candidate's potential for future leadership success.

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE RECOMMENDATION

**This letter should be written by a teacher or school administrator.**

Please discuss the candidate's suitability to hold the title of Divisional Youth of the Year, with a particular emphasis on the candidate's academic performance, intellectual capabilities and prospects for future academic success. Discuss the candidate's academic achievement levels, analytical skills, and ability to overcome academic challenges, as well as related obstacles that may have impacted his/her overall academic achievement. It is appropriate to discuss the candidate's academic goals and the levels of grit and resilience that he/she applies in pursuit of strong academic performance. Please include specific examples of how he/she has worked to overcome academic obstacles and pursue a high level of academic excellence.

# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES RECOMMENDATION

**This letter should be written by a non-family-member adult who can speak to the candidate's commitment to living and promoting healthy lifestyles.**

As Divisional YOYs are selected for their potential over a lifetime, one important criterion is their ability to meet the physical fitness demands required by an active lifestyle. Satisfying this standard does not require evidence of achievement in organized sports, but all applicants should be able to demonstrate that they lead a healthy lifestyle that will enable him/her to make an effective contribution to the world around them and serve as an ambassador who promote this priority outcome to other youth.

Please discuss the candidate's suitability to hold the title of Divisional Youth of the Year, with a particular emphasis on his/her commitment to physical fitness, nutrition and living a healthy lifestyle. This can include participation in sports, fitness and nutrition-related experiences, as well as avoidance of alcohol and drug consumption, abstinence, peer education in these areas, or other characteristics associated with building lifelong healthy habits.

# FORM C: CANDIDATES ACKNOWLEDGE / CERTIFICATION

I hereby consent to print and online publication and use of photographs and information contained in this application – and photos and videos taken during the entire Youth of the Year process from local to Divisional by The Salvation Army or its agents. I hereby attest that all information contained in this application form and attached supporting materials is, to the best of my knowledge, truthful, accurate and complete, and that I meet all eligibility requirements of the Youth of the Year program. I attest that the essays contained in this application are my original work and represent, to the best of my ability, my own thoughts on the questions put forth.

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) have received a copy of the application form being submitted on behalf of as a nominee for Youth of the Year. I (we) have reviewed this application in its entirety for accuracy and completeness, and I (we) certify that all information contained in the nomination form is accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge. I (we) affirm that I (we) have been given an opportunity by the Community Center to correct any misinformation to ensure the accuracy of the application. I (we) consent to allow any information in this application to be made public through any media as deemed necessary by (local Community Center) or by The Salvation Army. I (we) hereby consent to print and online publication and use of photographs and information contained in this application form – and photos and video taken during the entire Youth of the Year process from local to Divisional by The Salvation Army or its agents. By signing this application, I (we) hereby waive any claims associated with this program The Salvation Army and its member organizations.

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) Signature: : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby attest that all information contained in this application form and attached supporting materials is, to the best of my knowledge, truthful, accurate and complete, and that the nominee meets all eligibility requirements of the Youth of the Year program. I certify that a copy of this application was given to the parents/guardians of the nominee, and that they have been given an opportunity to make any corrections/additions to the application to ensure its accuracy.

Corps Officer or Executive Director Signature: : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO CARRY OUT THE STATED QUALIFICATIONS, REQUIREMENTS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIVISIONAL YOUTH OF THE YEAR. I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO MEET ANY OF THESE COULD DISQUALIFY ME FROM THE PROCESS OR RESULT IN THE LOSS OF MY YOUTH OF THE YEAR TITLE AT DIVISIONAL LEVEL.**

I understand that all YOY candidates are subject to a background check, and are aware that details of my personal life and/or my family circumstances may become public knowledge. I understand that my likeness and/or voice may be used for print, web, radio, social media or television purposes.

I certify that all forms and supplemental materials in this packet are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that failure to meet the requirements outlined in the National YOY Job Description, including those pertaining to character and integrity, will result in a breach of trust. In such case, I agree to forfeit all rights and privileges associated with participation in the YOY program. I further understand that actions that would result in a revocation of the YOY title include, but are not limited to: arrest, unlawful behavior, acts of dishonesty, taking willful action to become or get someone pregnant outside of marriage, etc. I understand that advancement AS THE Divisional YOY requires overnight travel with a chaperone.

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(Candidate Signature)

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(Parent / Legal Guardian Signature)