



DANIEL P. MCCOY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND
FAMILIES YOUTH BUREAU
112 STATE STREET – SUITE 300
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
(518) 447-7700 FAX (518) 447-5686

GAIL GEOHAGEN-PRATT
COMMISSIONER

MOIRA MANNING
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

March 16, 2016

Each year the Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families - Youth Bureau hosts the Youth Recognition Awards, an exciting initiative that recognizes youth who have overcome adversity, shown their tremendous resiliency and growth, athletic achievement or artistic expression or demonstrated their citizenship and civic engagement through community service. The Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families - Youth Bureau initiated this program in 2003 to celebrate youth that would not ordinarily be recognized. This program is an opportunity to honor the positive achievements of those youth. Last year's program was a great success and I anticipate that this year's will be even better.

Five middle school and five high school students will be recognized and rewarded in different achievement categories. The award categories are:

- Most Improved Student Award
- Artistic Expression
- Lt. John F. Finn Community Service
- Ed Roche Outstanding Youth
- George Roe Athletic Achievement

Enclosed is some additional information about the awards program along with a nomination form. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the information to individuals who can identify and nominate youth for these awards. Nomination forms are also available online at www.albanycounty.com.

Nominations are due April 27, 2016 with an awards ceremony planned for early June. Thank you again for your cooperation. Please contact Moira O'Brien, Youth Services Coordinator in the Youth Bureau at 447- 3094 if you have further questions. Thank you for your support and assistance.

Sincerely,

Gail Geohagen-Pratt
Commissioner

YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARDS

This program is an opportunity to honor the positive achievements of youth who would not ordinarily be recognized; youth who are exemplifying behaviors of positive youth development; and rewarding them for making great strides for themselves and our community.

******All youth nominated must be Albany County residents******

Award Categories and Selection - a total of ten students (5 middle school and 5 high school) will be selected to receive awards. The categories are:

- Most Improved Student
- Artistic Expression
- Lt. John F. Finn Community Service
- Ed Roche Outstanding Youth
- George Roe Athletic Achievement

Awards and their criteria:

Most Improved Student Criteria

Some factors to be considered include:

- Demonstrates (the most) significant academic improvement
- Demonstrates (the greatest) increase in participating in their studies
- Completing homework
- Study skills
- Class discussions
- Seeking/accepting assistance from others
- Increased efforts in academics

Artistic Expression Criteria

Some factors to be considered include:

- Compelling and innovative scholars of the creative arts (dance, music, theater, visual and literary arts)
- Demonstrates the **most improved** artistic scholarship
- Exhibits artistic ability that is impressive in creativity, originality and technique
- Demonstrates technical proficiency
- Displays exceptional ability, determination and stamina in the creative arts as they overcome significant life changes and/or obstacles

- Demonstrates concern for problems that youth face through personal exploration, expression and performance
- Uses art as a vehicle to impact the community by addressing social issues
- Demonstrates discipline, determination and commitment to personal, academic and artistic achievement

Lt. John F. Finn Community Service Award Criteria

Some factors to be considered include:

- Nature and type of contribution/community service
- Duration, length of time, hours committed, etc.
- Effort put forth by youth
- Impact youth has made to community
- Most significant contribution to his/her community
- Commitment to getting others involved in service activities

Ed Roche Outstanding Youth Criteria

Some factors to be considered include:

- Demonstrates a positive attitude
- Demonstrates respect for oneself and others
- Demonstrates leadership and responsibility
- Commitment to overcoming personal or societal barriers through activism
- Actively demonstrates courage and compassion when supporting others

George Roe Athletic Achievement Criteria

Some factors to be considered include:

- Demonstrates a positive attitude to become more athletic
- Increased hours or length of time dedicated to a sport
- Has overcome a personal obstacle, skill deficiency or physical challenge
- Exhibits effort in learning training techniques
- Achievement in personal athletic goals (set a new personal best or school record)
- Demonstrates the ability to do things independently and collaboratively (teamwork/teamplayer)
- Encourages others on the team
- Demonstrates the ability to communicate athletic needs effectively
- Demonstrates a commitment to make changes and receive assistance from others
- Demonstrates leadership development and meaningful interpersonal relationships



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DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
YOUTH BUREAU
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(518) 447-7700 - FAX (518) 447-5686

GAIL GEOHAGEN-PRATT
COMMISSIONER

MOIRA MANNING
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee: _____

Male Female Age: _____ School Grade: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

School Attending: _____

Youth Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Nominee E-Mail: _____

Name of Nominator: _____

Nominator Signature: _____

Nominator E-Mail address: _____

Organization/School (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

Nomination Categories

Middle School Youth

High School Youth

Most Improved Student:

Artistic Expression:

John F. Finn Community Service:

Ed Roche Outstanding Youth:

George Roe Athletic Achievement:

YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Instructions and Additional Information

Award Categories: a total of 5 middle school (grades 6-8) and 5 high school (grades 9-12) will be selected to receive awards.

Most Improved Student: student who has demonstrated the most significant improvement academically and/or demonstrated the greatest increase in participating in studies (*e.g., completing homework, actively studying, participating in class discussions, seeking/accepting tutorial/teacher assistance.*)

Artistic Expression: student who is a compelling and innovative scholar of the creative arts (dance, music, theater, visual and literary arts) that has exhibited artistic ability that is impressive in creativity, originality and technique, has had the greatest improvement in artistic scholarship and uses art as a vehicle to impact the community by addressing social issues. **Please include a sample of the student's work** (*e.g., sketches, paintings, photographs, performance videos, poetry etc.*)

Lt. John F. Finn Community Service: student who has made or is making a significant contribution to his or her community.

Ed Roche Outstanding Youth: student who has demonstrated a positive attitude and spirit, respect for oneself and others, increased effort in academics and is contributing to the community through youth activism.

George Roe Athletic Achievement: student who has demonstrated a positive attitude to become more athletic and has increased the amount of hours/length of time dedicated to a sport.

NOTE: Only 1 (one) youth per nomination is permissible (no group nominations)

*****All nominees must be residents of Albany County*****

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SHINING STAR

Please include the name of the nominee, the award category and date at the top of the nomination. Also include your name and contact information on the nomination.

We are seeking to honor shining stars. Shining stars are youth that have pushed themselves to achieve their personal best while overcoming personal difficulties. These youth possess the tenacity and determination necessary to defy the odds by triumphing over adversity and hurdling over the obstacles that have hindered their success.

In a brief and succinct essay (in 300 words or less), celebrate your shining star. Explain why this youth should be nominated for an award in the identified category. Specific examples of positive youth development, actions and achievements on the part of the youth that reflect the qualities of the award category he or she is being nominated for should be included. Please do not submit resumes.

Please note:

For Artistic Expression Nominees - a sample of the Nominee's sketches, poetry, essays, photos, dance, theatre, music must accompany the nomination. These items will be returned to the Nominee upon request.

SUBMISSION

Nomination forms and essays must be received by close of business **Wednesday, April 27, 2016**. Nominations will be accepted by mail or fax, or can be dropped off at the address below. **Make sure youth, parent/guardian and nominators sign the nomination form prior to submission.**

**Attn: Youth Recognition Awards
Committee Albany County Youth Bureau
112 State Street, Room 300
Albany, New York 12207
Phone: (518) 447-7700
Fax: (51) 447-5686
E-mail: Moira.Obrien@albanycounty.com**

If you mail the nomination, please allow time for postal delivery. Nominations not received by the stated deadline may not be accepted. Nominations not received by the stated deadline because of postal delays will not be accepted.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF YOUR NOMINEE AND ALBANY COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU'S 14TH ANNUAL YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARDS PROGRAM.



For more information please contact:

Moira O'Brien

(518) 447-3094

To find nomination forms and
award criteria please visit the office of
Albany County Department for Children Youth

and Families, Youth Bureau

112 State St., Rm. 300

Albany, NY 12207

Or go online to:

www.albanycounty.com



Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive

Gail Geohagan-Pratt, Commissioner
Albany County Department for
Children, Youth and Families

112 State Street, Room 300
Albany, NY 12207

(518) 447-7324

2016 YOUTH recognition awards



**Celebrate the positive achievements
of youth in our community!**

**Nominate youth that should be
praised and recognized.**

**Deadline for Nominations is:
April 27, 2016**

YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARDS

What is the Youth Recognition Award Program?

This program is an opportunity to honor the positive achievements of youth who would not ordinarily be recognized; youth who are exemplifying behaviors of positive youth development; and rewarding them for making great strides for themselves and our community. *All youth nominated **MUST BE** Albany County residents. No group nominations are permissible.*

Award Categories and Selection

A total of 10 students (5 middle school and 5 high school) will be selected to receive awards.

The categories are:

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- Artistic Expression
- Lt. John F. Finn Community Service
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AWARDS AND THEIR CRITERIA:

Most Improved Student Criteria

Some factors to be considered include:

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- Demonstrates (the greatest) increase in participating in their studies
- Completing homework, Study skills, Class discussions
- Seeking/accepting assistance from others
- Increased efforts in academics.

Artistic Expression Criteria

Some factors to be considered include:

- Compelling and innovative scholars of the creative arts (dance, music, theater, visual and literary arts)
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- Demonstrates discipline, determination and commitment to personal, academic and artistic achievement.

Lt. John F. Finn Community Service Award Criteria:

Some factors to be considered include:

- Nature and type of contribution/community service
- Duration, length of time, hours committed, etc.
- Effort put forth by youth
- Impact youth has made to community
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Some factors to be considered include:

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George Roe Athletic Achievement Criteria:

Some factors to be considered include:

- Demonstrates a positive attitude to become more athletic
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- Demonstrates the ability to communicate athletic needs effectively
- Demonstrates a commitment to make changes and receive assistance from others
- Demonstrates leadership development and meaningful interpersonal relationships