**Youth of Distinction Awards**

**a program of Youth Central**

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The Youth of Distinction Awards is an opportunity for Calgarians to recognize deserving youth (12-18 years of age) for the amazing ways they choose to live. The awards are not academic; each category has a focus whether it is leadership, friendship, overcoming personal challenge or community service. The award categories are as follows:

**Advocacy Award**

Given to a youth who commits time and energy lending their voice to a cause to bring about change. To receive this award, the nominee demonstrates passion and conviction.

**Arts and Culture Award**

Given to a youth who demonstrates passion for arts & culture including music, theatre, dance, film or visual arts. The nominee is committed to helping others understand the importance of arts in their community through acts like mentoring, teaching, fundraising and raising awareness.

**Environment Award**

Given to a youth who is committed to improving the environment and reducing environmental degradation. The nominee will have achieved results and have made the world a little “greener.”

**Leadership Award**

Given to a youth who takes on a leadership role to bring about positive change to their school or community. The nominee will demonstrate responsibility and drive, as well as initiative in starting new projects and programs.

**Peer Support Award**

Given to a youth who is a true mentor. This youth will have positively affected the life, or lives of others. The nominee will have shown empathy and compassion while lending their support.

**Perseverance Award**

Given to a youth who has prevailed over adversity or an obstacle in their life. The nominee will overcome challenges and demonstrate inner strength and perseverance.

**Sportsmanship Award**

Given to a youth who is passionate about athletics. They will demonstrate sportsman-like qualities such as mentorship, coaching, planning and enthusiasm. While they don’t have to be the most athletic nominee, they will show commitment to helping others recognize sport as an important part of their community.

**Volunteer Award**

Given to a youth who is truly selfless and dedicated to helping others. Though not necessarily in a leadership role, the nominee has shown commitment to bettering their community by volunteering their time to a cause they are passionate about.

\*Nominations are accepted for youth from Calgary and area

The Youth of Distinction Awards nomination forms are attached. If you have any questions, please contact Youth Central at **403-266-5448**, by email **yoda@youthcentral.com** or visit [**www.youthcentral.com/yoda**](http://www.youthcentral.com/yoda) for more information.

 **2018 Nomination Form**

*Please ensure that you complete all four steps of this application. Incomplete applications may be disqualified.*

Step 1. Complete the following information

*Please print clearly, and be sure to fill out all information, including signatures*

Nominee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone (other): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please be sure to provide an accurate email address as this is the primary method of communication.*

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please note, all nominees must not be older than 18 years of age as of December 31, 2017 and/or be still attending high school*

Nominator

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone (other): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please be sure to provide an accurate email address as this is the primary method of communication.*

Relationship to Nominee(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator Date

How did you learn about awards (please circle)? EMAIL POSTER FACEBOOK TWITTER WORD OF MOUTH PRINT AD ONLINE AD

YOUTH ARE AWESOME WEBSITE YOUTH CENTRAL WEBSITE OTHER (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Step 2. Youth of Distinction Award

*Please indicate which award you are nominating the candidate for by placing a check in the space provided*

Advocacy Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Perseverance Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Arts and Culture Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Peer Support Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Leadership Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sportsmanship Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Environment Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: You may only select one category. If the candidate wishes to be nominated in more than one category

(two maximum), a separate written portion of the nomination is required.

Step 3. Nominator’s Declaration

You can nominate a youth in one of the following ways:

Either:

* Complete the *Youth of Distinction Awards 2018 Questionnaire*, available on [www.youthcentral.com/yoda](http://www.youthcentral.com/yoda).
* Write a letter about the nominee that does not exceed 500 words in length and should be written in a minimum 12 point font.
* Create a video blog of yourself talking about the nominee (please exclude any images of the nominee), which should be 2 - 3 minutes in length.

Remember: Declarations should explain why you believe the nominee should be considered for the award you are nominating them for. Please include specific examples and references to their character. Be creative! All nominations, regardless of format, will be judged equally by a youth steering committee aged 12-18.

By checking the boxes below, the nominator confirms and acknowledges:

* That the information attached is accurate to the best of their knowledge; and,
* This information will be used in the selection process of the award recipients. Our youth volunteer steering committee members have signed confidentiality agreements. However, if the information included is sensitive in nature, it is the nominator’s responsibility to confirm with the nominee prior to submission.

Step 4. Please submit this nomination form, along with the Nominator’s Declaration by dropping it off or mailing it to:

Youth of Distinction Awards Program Coordinator

Youth Central

Suite #820, 105 12th Ave SE

 Calgary, AB T2G 1A1

**Nomination Deadline: February 26th, 2018**

You can also fax it to 403-264-0266 or scan and email it to yoda@youthcentral.com

NOTE: If you choose to fax your form, please call to confirm that it was successfully received.

The Youth of Distinction Awards Committee will make selections and contact all nominees/nominators by email by March 23, 2018 with further details. All successful nominators will be filmed for a video profile to be shown at the ceremony. Filming will take place during the month April. The ceremony will take place May 5, 2018 at the Calgary Zoo. Please be aware that all nomination forms and any additional materials provided will not be returned to sender.

For further information about the Youth of Distinction Awards, please contact Youth Central at 403-266-5448, by email yoda@youthcentral.com or visit [www.youthcentral.com/yoda](http://www.youthcentral.com/yoda).

**Nominator’s Questionnaire 2018**

*\*Please ensure that each of your answers is approximately 115 words in length unless otherwise specified. Answers should be typed on a separate sheet of paper (please number your answers). Nominators need only answer the questions for the category in which they are nominating the youth. Please do not answer any of the other questions.*

**Advocacy Award:**

1. What cause is this youth advocating for? Briefly describe their involvement in this cause.
2. What motivates this youth to lend their voice to this cause?
3. How have their experiences (in relation to advocacy) helped them to grow as a person?
4. What was the youth hoping to achieve by advocating for this cause?
5. How are they planning to continue their advocacy in the future?

**Arts and Culture Award:**

1. What area of arts and culture is this youth passionate about? Briefly describe their involvement.
2. How does this youth show their commitment to arts and culture?
3. How has this youth taken initiative to enhance their community through arts and culture?
4. How have arts and culture driven this youth to grow as a person?
5. How will they continue to contribute to arts and culture in the future?

**Environment:**

1. What motivates this youth or group of youth to commit their time to helping the environment?
2. How have their experiences with bettering the environment helped them to grow as a person?
3. What was the youth or group of youth hoping to achieve by being involved with environmental causes?
4. How have they inspired others?
5. How will they continue to contribute to environmental causes in the future?

**Leadership Award:**

1. What has motivated this youth to take on a leadership role?
2. What qualities does this youth possess, that make them a good leader?
3. In what ways has this youth helped to better their community through their leadership role(s)?
4. How have their experiences as a leader helped them to grow as a person?
5. How has this youth achieved their goals as a leader?
6. How might this youth continue to inspire others in the future?

**Peer Support Award:**

*\*Answers for each question in this category may range from 100 – 200 words in length.*

1. What motivates this youth to lend their support to others?
2. In what ways has this youth positively impacted others?
3. Please give an example(s) of an instance in which the nominee has demonstrated exemplary support for their peer(s).
4. How has helping others allowed them to grow as a person?
5. How has this youth impacted or inspired you?

**Perseverance Award:**

1. What obstacle(s) has this youth faced?
2. How did this youth prevail over these obstacle(s)?
3. How have their experiences helped them to grow as a person?
4. How has this youth’s ability to persevere created new opportunities for them?
5. In what ways has this youth’s experiences inspired others?

**Sportsmanship Award:**

1. In what area of athletics is this youth involved with? Briefly describe their involvement.
2. How does this youth demonstrate their passion for athletics?
3. How has the nominee used their athletic skills to empower others?
4. How has athletics driven this youth to grow as a person?
5. How has this youth taken initiative to enhance their community through athletics?

**Volunteer Award:**

1. What motivates this youth to contribute to their community?
2. Describe the youth’s level of commitment with the cause(s)/organization(s) they volunteer for.
3. Is there a specific cause(s) that this youth is most passionate about? If so, please describe.
4. In what ways has this youth helped to improve their community or positively impacted others?
5. How have they grown as a person?
6. How are they planning to continue to give back to their community?