**Youth of Distinction Awards**

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. These non-academic awards fall under 8 categories focusing on things like leadership, friendship, overcoming personal challenge or community service. Details below:

**Advocacy Award**

Awarded 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 dedication to a cause.

**Arts and Culture Award**

Awarded 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**

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

**Leadership Award**

Awarded 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**

Awarded 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**

Awarded to a youth who has overcome adversity or an obstacle in their life. The nominee will take on challenges and demonstrate inner strength and perseverance.

**Sportsmanship Award**

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

**Penny Hume Volunteer Award**

Awarded 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 help a cause they feel passionate about.

**2025 Nomination Form**

*Please ensure that you complete all four steps of this application* ***prior to February 10th, 2025. No late submissions will be accepted.*** *Incomplete applications may be disqualified.* Nominations are accepted for youth from Calgary and area (within a 50 km radius). We do not accept group nominations.
**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, 2024 and/or be 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): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Nominator Date

How did you hear about these awards? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2.** **Youth of Distinction Award Category**

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

Advocacy Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Arts and Culture Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Environment Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Leadership Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Peer Support Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Perseverance Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sportsmanship Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Penny Hume Volunteer Award \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3.** **Nomination**

You can nominate a youth in **ONE** of the following ways:

1. Complete the *Youth of Distinction Awards 2025 Questionnaire* attached at the end of this document*.*
2. Write a letter about the nominee that does not exceed 750 words in length and should be written in a minimum 12 point font.
3. 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: Nominations must 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. You should receive approval from your nominee before submitting your nomination, as not everyone is comfortable having their story shared.

**Step 4.** **Submission**
Please submit this nomination form by dropping it off at our office, or by mailing it, or scanning and emailing it to:

**Youth of Distinction Awards Program Coordinator**

**c/o Youth Central**

**Suite #820, 105 12th Ave SE**

 **Calgary, AB T2G 1A1**

**yoda@youthcentral.com**

* The Youth of Distinction Awards Committee will make selections and contact all nominees/nominators by email by March 20, 2025 with further details. Please be aware that all nomination forms and any additional materials provided will not be returned.
* All successful finalists will have details from their application included in a video profile to be shown live at the ceremony, as well as shared on the Youth Central YouTube account following the ceremony.
* **The ceremony will take place May 3, 2025 at the Calgary Zoo**. If your nominee is selected as a finalist, you and the nominee will be invited to attend.

Questions? Please contact Youth Central at 403-266-5448or by email **yoda@youthcentral.com**

**Nominator’s Questionnaire 2025**

*Each of your answers should not exceed 150 words in length. Please only answer the questions for the category in which you are nominating.*

**Advocacy Award:**

1. What cause is this youth advocating for? Briefly describe their involvement.
2. What motivates this youth to lend their voice to this cause?
3. How have their experiences (in relation to advocacy) helped them 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 Award:**

1. What motivates this 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 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 better their community through their leadership role(s)?
4. How have their experiences as a leader helped them grow as a person?
5. How might this youth continue to inspire others in the future?

**Peer Support Award:**

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 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? Briefly describe their involvement.
2. How does this youth demonstrate their passion for athletics?
3. How has the nominee used their passion for athletics 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. Is there a specific cause(s) that this youth is most passionate about? If so, please describe their commitment.
3. In what ways has this youth helped improve their community or positively impacted others?
4. How have they grown as a person?
5. How are they planning to continue to give back to their community?