

# YMCA CELEBRATION OF YOUTH AWARDS

## **VOLUNTEERISM, ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY SERVICE**



### **Community Builder Award- Sponsored by Bluewater Power**

This award honours an individual who exemplifies the transformative power of volunteerism within the community. The nominee will have demonstrated a profound commitment to community betterment by passionately dedicating themselves to a cause they deeply believe in. Furthermore, the nominee will exhibit exceptional qualities such as creativity, cooperation, and serve as an inspiring role model for others. Their volunteer efforts should encompass a holistic approach, including building meaningful relationships within the community, identifying critical needs, and developing and implementing effective solutions to enhance the lives of others. The essay component must provide concrete examples that illustrate these qualities and the positive impact of their volunteer contributions.

### **Environmental Stewardship Award - Sponsored by The Rotary Club of Sarnia-Lambton After-Hours**

This award recognizes a youth with notable achievements in, and a deep commitment to environmental initiatives. The successful candidate will be able to clearly demonstrate how their active participation in local environmental stewardship has positively impacted the Sarnia-Lambton community and our environment, as well as alignment with the YMCA's core values. Candidates will have the intention to enroll in post-secondary studies related to science or environmental studies.

### **International Ambassador Award – Sponsored by Rotary Club of Sarnia**

This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a strong interest in international humanitarian service. The successful candidate should be an effective communicator who can represent Canada with distinction. They should possess a keen interest in both international and civic affairs, and serve as a positive role model for others. Furthermore, the candidate should be recognized for fostering goodwill both domestically and internationally. The essay component must provide specific examples that demonstrate these qualities.

### **K. Eileen Wilson Award – Sponsored by Kirk Wilson**

The award recognizes an individual who has given back to community by supporting younger youth with special needs or youth who need extra help and encouragement, through efforts such as coaching, teaching, mentoring, or peer tutoring in the school or in the community. As well, the successful candidate may have given personal time and energy to such activities as food banks, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers or Sisters, or in other charitable organizations that help those in need to find strength, confidence and independence. Essay must include the ways they have dedicated their talents to the more vulnerable, or those with special needs, and is someone who has set a clear example to others of the role compassion can play in a healthy society.

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### **Llew Falla Athletic Achievement Mentorship Award - Sponsored by Mary-Lou Falla**

This award recognizes an individual who represents a high level of commitment, dedication and the pursuit of excellence in sport. In addition, they also find time to give back to their community. Through charitable efforts, community service and leadership, this award winner shares their talents and passion serving as a mentor and a positive role model to others.

### **Philanthropy Award – Sponsored by S&R Group of Companies in memory of John Rozema**

This award recognizes an individual who has identified a specific need or shortcoming in their school or community and has responded to the need by working individually or by collaborating with others to gather necessary resources (financial, human, political etc.) to successfully address this particular shortcoming. Essay must include what particular need was addressed, resources gathered, and what improvements to the life of the school or community resulted from their efforts.

### **Service Above Self Award - Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Petrolia**

This award recognizes young individuals who exemplify the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self," through their outstanding dedication to community service. Nominees must demonstrate a proven history of selfless acts that have a meaningful and positive impact on their community. This includes initiatives that address pressing community needs, foster connections, and improve the lives of others. The ideal candidate will exhibit a strong passion for service, a genuine desire to assist those in need, and a steadfast commitment to building a more equitable and compassionate world. Applications should include an essay detailing the nominee's contributions, motivations, and the tangible outcomes of their service efforts. The essay must illustrate how their actions reflect the "Service Above Self" principle and highlight the lasting impact they have made within their community.

### **Volunteerism Award – Sponsored by Rotary Club of Sarnia-Bluewaterland**

This award recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond, and, who exemplifies the true potential of a volunteer to make a difference in the community. The candidate will have shown a commitment to bettering the community by volunteering to a cause about which they are passionate. In addition, the candidate will demonstrate creativity, co-operation, and serve as a role model for others in the community. These initiatives may be both at the international and local level and include building relationships, identifying needs and implementing solutions to improve lives. Essay must include examples of the aforementioned.