



2012 Contest Guidelines

THE BASICS

What is this?

The Philanthropy Council's Youth Philanthropy Contest is an exciting new opportunity for youth and young adults to use their creativity, compassion, and love of their community to make a difference. The Philanthropy Council wants youth from kindergarten through age 25 to ask themselves this question:

How can I make a difference in my community?

Applicants will submit their best ideas to change the world, right here in their own backyards. **Contest winners will receive \$1000 to implement their projects.**

What do you mean "make a difference?"

We are looking for projects that help our community grow and change for the better and are "philanthropic" in nature. **Philanthropy** is a big word but it can be easily understood as "giving of your time, talents, and treasure for the benefit of all." Here are some questions to help you think about ways to make things better in your community:

- ***What do I care about?***
- ***How can my caring help others?***
- ***What in my community needs fixing?***
- ***What would make my community a better place for babies, kids, animals, adults, visitors, the elderly, or people who are sick?***

Your idea could be something you've been thinking about for a while or a totally random spark of inspiration – as long as it benefits others. You could save something, create something, or change something. Tell us about your best idea for making a difference!



The Philanthropy Council of Northeast Nebraska is an account of the Norfolk Area Community Foundation Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

What kinds of ideas qualify?

We're looking for ideas that:

- Have a positive impact on the community
- Can be completed within 9 months
- Take place in one of these seven counties - Madison, Boone, Wayne, Stanton, Platte, Pierce, Antelope
- Are charitable in nature (which means it must focus on serving the public interest or common good)

Do I have to do this by myself?

Not unless you want to! The contest has many different categories for youth, so find the one that works for you. The winner of each category will receive \$1000 to complete their community project. If you add it up, that is \$8000 worth of great things that will be happening to make our community a better place. See where you fit in below:

Small Groups (1 to 3 people)

Kindergarten – 4th Grade

5th Grade – 8th Grade

9th Grade – 12th Grade

Young Adult (thru age 25)

Large Groups (4+ people; this could include you and a group of friends or an organized group you belong to such as cub scouts, swim team, or FFA)

Kindergarten – 4th Grade

5th Grade – 8th Grade

9th Grade – 12th Grade

Young Adult (thru age 25)

****If the group has various ages of youth, the age group should be determined by the age of the oldest person participating.**

How do I complete an application?

There are a few things that **MUST** be turned in with your application and there are a few additional pieces that may help “sell” your idea to the selection committee and give them a better sense of what you are trying to accomplish. The more you can demonstrate the details of your project and its impact in the community, the better your chances are for being selected.

Required Application Materials:

- Contest Application (all sections must be completed – including a media release for EACH student that participates in your group.)

Optional Things to Include with Your Application:

- Pre-application submission form
- Visual Aids (Posters, display boards, sketches, flow charts, impact statements, statistics, etc.)
- Video
- Photos
- Examples or prototypes of your project if it is a product of some kind



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What is the deadline for this contest?

All applications are **due on February 1, 2012**. **ALL** the parts of your application must be received by the deadline. ***No late entries will be accepted.***

When do you announce the winners?

Winners will be announced at the *Youth Philanthropy Contest Event* on **February 10th at the Norfolk Senior High**. You will receive more information about this when you turn in your application. All applicants with qualifying proposals will be invited.

What do I do with my contest application and supporting materials once they are done?

Contest applications can be mailed to:

Philanthropy Council
Attn: Youth Philanthropy Contest
PO BOX 714,
Norfolk, NE 68702

You can also drop off your contest application and supporting materials at the Norfolk Arts Center at 305 S. 5th Street. The Arts Center is open Tuesday – Friday, 9am – 5pm and Saturdays from noon – 4pm.

Important Dates to Remember

November 15th – Contest application materials become available

February 1st – Contest application materials are due

February 10th – Youth Philanthropy Contest Event (Norfolk Senior High)

February 18th – Celebrate Giving Event (Divot's Conference Center)



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OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will I know if you received my application?

We will send a confirmation email to the address you provided on your application. Every applicant will also receive details about the Youth Philanthropy Contest event on February 10th.

Is there a way I can get help with my application?

You can always get help by calling 402-379-9516 or email us at youthcontest@philanthropycouncilne.org with any questions you might have about the contest or application process.

What is the Pre-Application Submission Form?

It is highly recommended that you submit this form to us prior to working on your project. This is a short, one-page description of your project and the people it will serve. We will review your idea to make sure that it is charitable in nature and qualifies for the contest BEFORE you put your time and energy into developing your full application. **If you do not complete this step, you are at risk for having your project disqualified because it does not meet the guidelines.** Better to get it checked out first.

You can submit the pre-application submission form any time to PO Box 714, Norfolk, NE 68702. We will reply to you within one week's time to let you know you can get started on your application.

Why should I submit a video, poster or other visual aid?

Visual aids such as videos, posters, or displays help our selection committee learn more about your project and the impact that it can have on the community. Use the visuals to sell your idea and tell us why it should be selected for funding.

Are there any guidelines for my video?

Your video must be 2 minutes or less in length, be appropriate to your project, be in English, and be clear, focused and audible. You must also have the permission of all identifiable individuals (or their parent or guardian if they are under 18) in your video. Videos can be placed on youtube.com or a portable flash drive.

What if I don't have access to video equipment?

Videos are not required, it is just an idea for you to consider that may help you better tell your story.

Do I have to make sure my project is approved by the community organization or group that it benefits?

No. The contest committee will seek approval from all community organizations effected by the project on behalf of the contest winners. That way if your project wins, you know that you will be allowed to get started.

Who decides which projects receive funding?

The Youth Philanthropy Contest has a Selection Committee that will be reviewing all applications. Applicants identifying information will not be available to the selection committee so that all applications are treated equally.



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Are there any other opportunities for me to display my project?

On February 18th, the Philanthropy Council will be hosting *Celebrate Giving!*. This event recognizes people in our community who have been doing charitable work throughout their lifetimes. The event works to fulfill the mission of the Philanthropy Council, which is to create a culture of giving in our community. This is a great opportunity for youth to showcase their projects and perhaps have a chance to be funded by someone else! ***All applicants are highly encouraged to attend this event and display their projects during the social hour.***

What happens if my idea is funded?

If your idea is selected for funding, you will be assigned to either a non-profit agency who is a member of the Philanthropy Council or a local service club. This agency will serve as your mentor and will help you with completing your project and reimbursing you for expenditures. The prize money will be granted to the 501(c)(3) organization, not to the individual contest winner.

If you are a contest winner, you will complete an agreement form regarding the implementation of your project, timelines and the reporting guidelines.

Do I have to report back to the Philanthropy Council after my project is over?

You and your mentor will provide monthly updates to the Philanthropy Council on your project's progress. When your project is completed, we will ask you to answer a few questions about your project and how it went.

What is the timeline for completing my project?

You have nine months to complete your project from the date you receive your funding.

Contact Information for the Youth Philanthropy Contest:

Youth Philanthropy Contest

PO Box 714

Norfolk, NE 68702

402-379-9516

youthcontest@philanthropycouncilne.org

Drop off Projects & Applications at

Norfolk Arts Center

305 S. 5th Street

Norfolk, NE 68701



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