

2017 Contest Guidelines

Youth Philanthropy Contest

What is this?

The Youth Philanthropy Contest is an exciting opportunity for youth and young adults to use their creativity, compassion, and love of their community to make a difference. We want people 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 up to \$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?

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!

What kinds of ideas qualify?

We’re looking for ideas that:

- Have a positive impact on the community
- Can be completed by October 1st of this year
- Directly benefit Northeast Nebraska
- Are charitable in nature (which means it must focus on serving the public interest or common good)
- Involve youth in the project work

Do I have to do this by myself?

Not unless you want to! You can do a project on your own, with friends, or as part of a class, club or group. The contest has five different age-based categories for youth, so find the one that works for you. The winner of each category will receive funding to complete their community project. In addition, there will be five “best of show” projects chosen also! Project funding will be determined by the project budget and may be as much as \$1000. See where you fit in below:

Kindergarten – 4th Grade
5th and 6th Grades
7th and 8th Grades
9th Grade – 12th Grade
Young Adult (thru age 25)

****If the group has various ages of youth, the age group is 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.)
- Project Display (Posters, photos, display boards, sketches, flow charts, impact statements, statistics, and anything else that helps showcase your project)

Optional Things to Include with Your Application (to give you a better chance for funding):

- You Tube Video (please see Other Frequently Asked Questions for instructions on submission)
- Examples or prototypes of your project if it is a product of some kind

It has been our experience that the *projects that included good displays with their application submissions are more likely to be chosen as contest winners*

What is the deadline for this contest?

All applications are **due on February 4th, 2017**. **ALL** the parts of your application must be received by the deadline. ***No late entries will be accepted.***

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

Project applications and displays can be dropped off at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk on the campus of Northeast Community College, 801 East Benjamin Avenue, during the following times:

Friday, February 3rd, 3:00-6:00 pm

Saturday, February 4th, 8:00-10:00 am

When you drop off your projects, a committee member will check through all your paperwork and then escort you to a table where you can set up your project display for judging. The Selection Committee will review projects that same day, during which time they will select the contest winners.

When do you announce the winners?

Winners will be announced at the *Celebrate Giving & Youth Contest Project Showcase* on **February 4th at the Lifelong Learning Center**. Each project must have **at least one representative attend** the Youth Contest Showcase but we encourage all group members participating in the contest to attend. Everyone is invited to also bring their family and friends. Food and beverages will be served and everyone will have a chance to look at the displays and listen to a short program.

Important Dates to Remember

February 3rd (3pm – 6pm) – Project Drop-off at the Lifelong Learning Center

February 4th (8am – 10am) – Project Drop-off at the Lifelong Learning Center

February 4th (5pm – 7pm) – Celebrate Giving and Youth Contest Showcase at the Lifelong Learning Center

February 9th (6pm – 7pm) – Project Kickoff Celebration at the Lifelong Learning Center

October 17th (TBA) – Youth Project Wrap-Up Celebration at the Lifelong Learning Center

OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

You can always get help by calling April Martens at 402-644-0354 or email us at youthcontest@philanthropycouncilne.org with any questions you might have about the contest or application process. In addition, the Youth Philanthropy Contest has a group of community mentors who will work with students to put their application packets, budgets, and displays together. So if you need help figuring out an idea, putting together a budget, designing displays, or completing your application packet they are there for you!

Why should I submit a video, poster or other display items?

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. It has been our experience that the projects that included detailed visual aids with their application submissions are more likely to be chosen as contest winners.

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 a completed media release (see application form) all identifiable individuals (or their parent or guardian if they are under 18) in your video. Videos must be submitted via youtube.com. To get started uploading videos on YouTube, follow the steps below:

1. Sign into YouTube (you must create an account if you don't already have one)
2. Click the Upload link at the top of the page.
3. Select the video you'd like to upload from your computer.

Once the upload is completed YouTube will send you an email to notify you that your video is done uploading and processing. You can then forward that email to youthcontest@philanthropycouncilne.org for easy sharing. When you upload a video, by default it is set as a “Public” video, which means that anybody can view it. You can easily change the privacy settings while you’re uploading the video in the “Privacy Settings” section. Or, if you’ve already uploaded the video, you can change the privacy settings by following the steps below:

1. Visit your [Video Manager](#).
2. Find the video you’d like to change, and then click the Edit button.
3. In the “Privacy Settings” drop-down menu, select Public, Unlisted, or, Private.
4. Click Save changes.

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?

YES! All projects that directly impact a club, group, or organization **MUST have approval** from those organizations effected by the project for your application to be considered for the contest. Not having permission to move forward with your project, should it be selected as a contest winner, will disqualify your application.

Can my project be a fundraising event?

Yes! Fundraising is an important segment of philanthropy that helps to make a lot of organizations and projects a reality. If you choose to do a project that is a fundraiser, you must complete the Fundraiser Supplemental Application page found in the application.

Who decides which projects receive funding?

The Youth Philanthropy Contest has a Selection Committee that will be reviewing all applications.

What happens if my idea is funded?

If you are a contest winner or are funded by a community donor, the first step will be to attend our *Project Kick-Off Pizza Party* on **February 9th at the Lifelong Learning Center**. Each project must have at least one representative present. Each classroom or large group project should select no more than 2-3 representatives to attend. It is also important that a parent or adult attends with you. We will review project timelines and complete an agreement form regarding the implementation of your project.

You will be paired with a mentor who will help you to complete your project by offering support, assistance and advice as you need it. They will check in with you on a regular basis and will assist you in working with the Philanthropy Council on financials pieces of your project. We will explain this in more detail and provide you a chance to meet your mentors if your project receives funding. Please feel free to ask questions if it is unclear.

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

You and your mentor will provide quarterly 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.

We will wrap up the year with a final *Youth Project Celebration* on **October 17th at the Lifelong Learning Center**. All funded projects will get a chance to report on their success and the impact their project had.

What is the timeline for completing my project?

You have until October 1st to complete your project from the date you receive your funding.

Contact Information for the Youth Philanthropy Contest:

Youth Philanthropy Contest
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April Martens, Project Coordinator, 402-644-0354
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Stay up to date on the youth contest by visiting our website at www.philanthropycouncilne.org, following us on Twitter [@YPcontest](https://twitter.com/YPcontest) or liking us on Facebook: [Philanthropy Council of Northeast Nebraska](https://www.facebook.com/PhilanthropyCouncilofNortheastNebraska).