



NRTA *With Our Youth!*

NRTA *With Our Youth!* Award Nomination, Guidelines, & Tips

Each year, NRTA gives national *With Our Youth!* volunteer recognition awards in three categories.

The awards recognize the participation and projects of:

- State Retired Educators Associations
- Local Retired Educators Associations
- Individual Volunteers

Criteria For Awards

- The impact of the volunteer service with youth must be clearly documented in the nomination.
- The service may be done in groups (volunteers or students) or on a one-to-one basis (one volunteer working with one child, or a group of volunteers working with individual children).
- The service is to be done with youth who are not relatives. In groups, related children may be included provided the volunteer(s) work with all of the youth, not just the related youth.
- The volunteers receive no compensation for their service other than for transportation to the volunteer site, meals during the time of volunteer work or for materials used in the project.

TIPS:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This section is meant to paint a picture of your nomination. Remember that you are excited about the project and the work of the volunteers.

- Offer details such as how many hours or days per week/month have been dedicated to this project.
- What and where is the work performed?
- Why is the work needed? (Share information about size and the current state of the community.)
- Did you partner or collaborate with anyone or another organization?

Think about the five key resources or “promises”

The project does not need to address all five—but it is useful to make connections back to one or two promises:

- an on-going relationship with a caring adult
- a healthy start in life
- safe places to learn and grow
- a marketable skill upon graduation
- an opportunity to serve in their communities

PROJECT IMPACT:

- Think about describing the “difference made” by the volunteer(s)
- How are the youth benefiting from the service?
- Or are the youth volunteering with the nominees?

--Remember that the NRTA *With Our Youth!* program also encompasses involving youth in volunteering.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

- Displayed on the day of the Independent Selection Panel Meeting.
- Optional – many nominations *without supporting materials*, have been selected as award recipients.
- Think about what you are submitting and how each item might enhance the telling of your story.
- Does it support what you have already submitted?
- Does it demonstrate the impact of the community service?

REMINDERS ABOUT THE BASICS:

- Be clear about the category.
- Edit and proofread for flow, grammar and consistency,
- Find one or more strong writers to help with the nomination form.

CONCLUSION:

During the nominating process, it is useful to remember the four points below.

1. Research
2. Reflect
3. Write
4. Review

Because our members and associations believe in the tremendous potential of youth to be a positive force in our society today, we have dedicated ourselves to ensure that youth have the five key resources to be productive members of their communities. State and local REAs continue to serve over 500,000 youth in more than 1,000 communities annually.



Entry forms for

To submit your nomination online, please visit:
or complete the form below and send the completed form
with the project description and impact statement to:

NOMINATOR

**NRTA *With Our Youth!* Awards,
Community Service, 601 E Street, NW, Washington DC 2004**

Nominator Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

This nomination is for the following category (*please check only one*):

_____ State _____ Local _____ Individual

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Contact Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

➔ On a separate sheet, please attach the following:

1. Brief description of the project (100-200 words).
2. Description of project impact on the youth with whom the volunteer(s) worked and if applicable, please also describe the impact on others in the community resulting from the project (200-400 words).

Supporting materials such as letters and photos, are welcomed, but not required.

Name of State or Local Retired Educators Association you belong to – if applicable.

The NRTA *With Our Youth!* program provides opportunities for retired educators and youth to work together to address the needs of youth and the broader community. State and local retired educators association volunteer leaders use the resources provided by NRTA to organize local self-sustaining direct service projects for and with youth.