

Leaders of Tomorrow Awards Program
In Celebration of our 25th Annual Event!

The *Leaders of Tomorrow Awards* is a youth volunteer recognition program which encourages nominees to continue their involvement in volunteerism and leadership activities. It also acknowledges that all voluntary contributions are valuable to a community.

This program was founded by Volunteer Calgary in 1989. In 1996, the Wetaskiwin and Area **Leaders of Tomorrow** Steering Committee felt it was important to bring this program to the City of Wetaskiwin, County of Wetaskiwin, Town of Millet and Maskwacis. Over the past 24 years, the **Leaders of Tomorrow** program has successfully recognized 690 outstanding nominees for their contributions to our community through voluntary action and leadership. Nominations are divided into four age categories: 8 - 11 years, 12 - 14 years, 15 - 17 years and 18 - 21 years.

The communities involved with the program play an important role in nominating their young volunteer leaders. Nomination information and forms are distributed to schools, churches, voluntary agencies and organizations and individuals. A printable/fillable form can be found following the City of Wetaskiwin link: <https://www.wetaskiwin.ca/724/Wetaskiwin-Area-Leaders-of-Tomorrow> and the WRPS website: www.wrps11.ca

One of the most important principles of the Program is that each nominee is recognized for their own work, contributions and leadership skills, large and small. To that end, all the nominees are invited to a public Awards Ceremony held at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum during Volunteer Week. Among other things, they receive a copy of their biography, which is read aloud during the event.

One individual is selected from each age group as a representative of youth volunteer leaders in our communities. A selection committee, made up of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including the education, voluntary and business sectors, choose the Award Representatives in a blind judging process, based on the information that is included in their nomination package. The Representatives receive a number of recognition items in addition to the Nominee recognition package, including a \$100.00 cheque which they donate to a non-profit organization of their choice at the event. All nominees and representatives are also offered the opportunity to participate in a one day free leadership experience held in May.

Why Should You Help Recognize Youth Volunteer Leadership?

Youth volunteers add energy, enthusiasm and fresh perspectives, as well as much-needed human resources to their communities. Public recognition of youth volunteer leadership is more than saying thank-you for a job well done:

- ☆ it focuses community attention on the good that young people contribute to society, when so often all we hear is the bad news
- ☆ it builds self-esteem, an important need we all share regardless of age
- ☆ it encourages other young people to become involved in volunteering and leadership when they have role models to follow
- ☆ when we publicly recognize the contributions that young people make as volunteers, we affirm the value of their actions to society

So go ahead, fill out the Nomination form and help recognize the young volunteer leaders in our community!