NRTA *With Our Youth!* Awards Nomination Form Tips

**THE BASICS:**

- The deadline is June 14, 2019.
- Visit [www.aarp.org/nrta/woy](http://www.aarp.org/nrta/woy) to view descriptions of past award recipients.
- Be clear about the category for submission.
- Find one or more strong writers to help with the nomination form.
- Edit and proofread entry for flow, grammar and consistency.

**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.

- What and where is the work performed? What is the purpose of the project or activity?
- Why is the work needed and how are you serving youth? (Share information about size of the youth audience, the current state of the community, and/or the benefit and service you are providing.)
- Did you partner or collaborate with anyone or another organization?
- Be specific. Consider offering details such as how many hours or days per week/month have been dedicated to this project.

**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 ongoing 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? Are there any specific results or feedback you can share?
- Are the youth volunteering with the nominee(s)?

Remember that the NRTA With Our Youth! program can also involve youth in volunteering.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS such as news clippings, letters, photos and videos:

- Optional – many nominations without supporting materials have been selected as award recipients.
- Supporting materials can be submitted by hard copy or electronically.
- If providing photos, consider describing the individuals and the action in the photos.
- If supporting materials are included with your submission, they are displayed for the Independent Selection Panel on the day of the judging.
- Think about what you are submitting and how each item might enhance the telling of your story.
- Do the supporting materials reinforce/document what you have already submitted?
- Do the supporting materials demonstrate the impact of your community service?

CONCLUSION:

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

1. **Research** – How/why was this project identified?
2. **Reflect** – What has been the impact of the project?
3. **Write** – Succinctly write a project description to help a person, who is unfamiliar with the project, understand why it is important.
4. **Review** – Check the submission for typos, clarity and enthusiastic tone (don’t undersell or overstate your efforts; instead, try to generate a “wow” from the panel about the great work via testimonials, etc.)
About NRTA *With Our Youth*!

The NRTA *With Our Youth!* program provides recognition for retired educators and youth to work together to address the needs of youth and the broader community.

NRTA has served 1.5 million youth in 2,000 communities with a total of 45 million service hours through its affiliated state retired educators associations (REAs). Every year, State and local REAs continue to serve over 500,000 youth in more than 1,000 communities.

The program provides five key resources for youth:
- an ongoing 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

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 ensuring that youth have the five key resources to be productive members of their communities.

*NRTA With Our Youth!* Award Nomination and Guidelines

Each year, NRTA gives national *With Our Youth!* volunteer recognition awards in two categories:
- Local Chapter/Units Projects
- Individual Volunteers

**Criteria for Awards**

1. The impact of the volunteer service with youth must be clearly documented in the nomination.

2. 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).

3. 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.

4. 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.

NRTA: AARP’s Educator Community

www.aarp.org/nrta/woy