Topic: Teen Service Award Proposal

Background: YALSA’s Board charged the Youth Participation Committee with developing a proposal for a teen service award. Their proposal is provided below.

Action Required: Action

Teen Services Award Proposal

Proposed name of the award ideas:
Teen Library Service Award

Definition, purpose:
The Teen Library Service Award recognizes a teen sponsored by a YALSA member who through recognized library service has contributed significantly to the local library community. A teen group may receive the award in place of an individual teen. Award-recipients shall be judged on the measurable impact of their service to the local community, the demonstrated dedication and creativity of that service, and its integration into the goals and objectives of the local library in which service was rendered.

Criteria:
Teen between 12-18 years of age

Must be a volunteer, employee, or other affiliate of any library related organization

Teen must have a library sponsor who is also a YALSA member

Sponsor will complete recommendation form that demonstrates significant contribution to library services including but not limited to: documentation of services rendered to library, essays (essays must be no longer then one page typed, double spaced and no more then three essays may be submitted per application), recommendations by Teachers and other members of the surrounding community.

Rationale:
The Youth Participation committee’s function as stated is “To establish guidelines and/or procedures to involve young adults in the decision-making process which directly affects their
access to information and library service at local, state and national levels and providing continuing education and public professional awareness of youth participation.”

YALSA’s Vision Statement includes recognition that “young adults are actively involved in the library decision-making process.” YALSA’s Strategic Plan envisions a future in which “all teens are library users and advocates,” and “teens are contributing to the development of their library services.” In light of this vision, the Youth Participation Committee wishes to provide initiatives to teens who are already exemplifying these behaviors. Additionally, the committee recognizes the efforts made by youth librarians to foster participation for this award.

**Number and Frequency of award:**

This would be an annual award.

**Selection of Jury to Administer the Award:**

It is our recommendation that the Youth Participation committee act as the jury for this award. Teen would receive a prize donated by a sponsor such as a certificate for free books or electronics.

**Deadline for nomination of candidates:**

Nomination period would be open from January 01 – August 01 of the award year. Award will be announced at ALA midwinter meeting the following January.

**Screening of candidates:**

YALSA will photocopy applications and supporting material and send packets to all Youth Participation committee members no later then September 30. Applications will be reviewed beginning October 01, narrowed down to semi-finalists via virtual meetings or email. The jury will select the winner of the award at the ALA Midwinter meeting and the choice will be submitted to YALSA's board of directors.

**Presentation of award:**

Winner will be announced at the end of the ALA Midwinter Conference with the award being given at the ALA Awards Banquet at the Annual Conference.

**Form and/or type of award:**

Winner would receive an award plaque as well as a prized donated by a sponsor.

**Funding:**
Sponsor ideas: Comcast, Microsoft, Apple, Baker and Taylor, Gale, Brodart, Gaylord, Ingram, etc.

**Catalog description of Award:**

The YALSA Teen Library Service Award recognizes a teen sponsored by a YALSA member who through recognized library service has contributed significantly to the local library community. A teen group may receive the award in place of an individual teen. Award-recipients shall be judged on the measurable impact of their service to the local community, the demonstrated dedication and creativity of that service, and its integration into the goals and objectives of the local library in which service was rendered.

**Evaluation of award program:**

A task force made up of YALSA members will reevaluate the award after the first 2 years in regard to: any changes that need to be made, whether it will continue and if so how often, how to better market and promote the award, if the process for identifying successful candidates is working, and the status of sponsor involvement.