

There's still time for youth to be nominated for a Youth Achievement Award.

We believe that, because of the work you do, you are in a potentially perfect position to nominate the young people you work with for a Youth Achievement Award in **Environmental Stewardship**. The Clark County Youth Commission, the group of young people who host these awards each year, has believed since the ceremony began 22 years ago how important it is to recognize youth for environmental stewardship. As you know, improving and maintaining a clean and healthy environment is crucial for not only the animals, plants, and wildlife, but for our mental and physical health too. The hard work your youth do for the environment deserves to be recognized by the community because the work they do is truly important for our community.

Some youth who have been nominated for Environmental Stewardship have:

- volunteered cleaning up parks and trails.
- done studies of local wildlife for their horticulture class.
- volunteered for wildlife refuges or other places promoting the environment.
- volunteered at local farms, growing food or caring for animals.

There are also twelve other potential categories you can recognize your youth in.

**Nomination forms are available on Clark County's website at <https://www.clark.wa.gov/community-services/youth-achievement>.**

We understand that in some fields confidentiality needs can be a concern or even a barrier to nominating amazing young people for a Youth Achievement Award. We greatly value the relationship you have with the young people you work with and wanted to provide some ideas on how other nominators have been able to uphold confidentiality while also nominating youth for an award:

- There is a box on the first page of the form where you can decline to share some or all of the described achievements with parents/guardians and event speakers. For nominations that choose this option, only county employees working closely with the event will have access to the contents of the form.
- You can also provide vague, yet specific, details of their accomplishments. For example, for youth in foster care, you can talk about how they have developed and thrived while overcoming great obstacles. Or, for youth receiving counseling services, you can talk about how they demonstrated great courage despite personal struggles or have made great progress working toward their personal goals.
- Some nominators have shared the nomination form with their youth to get their permission and have asked them to sign a release form.
- We recognize that this may not work for everyone and would like you to know how much we appreciate you for being a positive, supporting adult for young people in our community.

Recognition is a powerful way to help young people feel valued by, and connected to, their community. We know from prevention research that having opportunities for prosocial involvement in the community, and being recognized for that involvement, is a protective factor in the lives of young people.

**Nomination Deadline: February 14, 2020**

Sincerely,

The Clark County Youth House