



NEED Youth Energy Conference & Awards Staff Application Requirements



BACKGROUND

Each June, NEED hosts our annual **Youth Energy Conference and Awards!** The conference and awards combine academic competition with recognition to acknowledge everyone involved in NEED during the year – and to recognize those who excel in energy education in their schools and communities. The students and teachers set goals and objectives, submit a portfolio of their activities to NEED in April of each year. The winning projects are invited to attend the Youth Energy Conference and Awards in Washington, D.C. at the end of June. During the conference, participating schools have the opportunity to share their school projects with their peers and to work in small groups with students from around the country to gain additional energy content and think about energy challenges that face the world today.

The NEED Project emphasizes the “Kids Teaching Kids” approach to energy education. Each year, NEED calls on student leaders from across the United States to staff the Youth Awards Program. Students that serve on the Youth Awards staff arrive one day prior to the conference and depart the day after. The students on Youth Awards Staff are familiar with the NEED Project and its mission and have used the program in their classrooms. The Youth Awards Staff should have exceptional leadership skills, be knowledgeable about energy, and be willing to work hard to make the program a success.

As part of the youth conference program, Youth Staff will play an integral role leading educational sessions and assisting student groups as they tackle a STEM Challenge.

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Potential candidates are:

- Effective leaders who lead by example and are well respected by peers.
- Encouraging facilitators who serve as a team leader.
- Leaders who create excitement and motivate others to accomplish great things.
- Leaders who demonstrate energy awareness at home, school and in the community and educates others about energy.
- Students who are knowledgeable about energy and have taken time to not only be a leader of energy activities but have developed a knowledge base about energy and important energy issues.
- Students who engage the winners attending the Youth Awards Program both in activities and conversation.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must:

1. Actively participate in the planning and implementation of NEED workshops, in-services, conferences or programs and be involved in NEED in the classroom or in after-school programs.
2. Have an interest in science and energy and a willingness to work hard, learn, and work within a team of highly qualified students and adult mentors.
3. Be at least 13 years old at the time the Youth Awards Program is hosted in Washington, D.C. It is recommended that the student be starting the 9th grade in the fall prior to the June Awards.
4. Be able and willing to travel from to and from Washington D.C. via airplane or train unaccompanied by the parent/guardian.
5. Represent NEED with professionalism, honesty, and commitment.

