



2026 Youth Energy Leadership Award

The NEED Project recognizes student leadership by awarding the Youth Energy Leadership Award each year to up to two students who have demonstrated outstanding energy leadership, knowledge, and an interest in continuing their energy studies for the purpose of seeking a career in energy, STEM, or education. Each year, at least one award will be given to a student who plans to enter the energy field or public service related to energy. Select award winners will receive a \$1,500 check for use for college, university or technical school tuition and expenses.

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

This award is designed to honor students demonstrating effective leadership skills and energy knowledge throughout their association with NEED.

The following are examples of traits the award committee will consider as it chooses recipients of the awards:

- An effective leader who leads by example and is well respected by his or her peers.
- An encouraging facilitator who serves as a team leader.
- A leader who creates excitement and motivates others to accomplish great things.
- A leader who demonstrates energy awareness at home, school and in the community and educates others about energy.
- A student who is knowledgeable about energy and has taken the time to not only be a leader of energy activities but has developed a knowledge base about energy and important energy issues.
- Graduating high school seniors or current first or second year college, university, or technical school students.
- A student showing interest in pursuing a career in the energy or education field.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must be:

1. Graduating high school seniors with plans to attend college or technical school **-or-**
2. Currently enrolled first, second or third year college/university/technical school students

Candidates must be actively involved in NEED activities – energy club, student workshops, Youth Energy Conference & Awards, and NEED classroom programs are just a few examples.

Candidates must actively participate in NEED programs in the classroom, and when possible, with NEED state and national programs.



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Application Procedures

- Two recommendations on your behalf. A minimum of one recommendation must be from a NEED Project teacher/advisor.
- Upload of one high quality digital photo (JPG, PNG). Note: This photo will be used for media purposes.
- Full completion of this online application - including upload of your essay.

Applications must be submitted by April 30th. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.



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* Applicant Information

First Name:	<input type="text"/>
Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Home Address:	<input type="text"/>
City:	<input type="text"/>
State:	<input type="text"/>
Zip:	<input type="text"/>
County:	<input type="text"/>
Phone:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>
Age:	<input type="text"/>
Birth Date:	<input type="text"/>
Year(s) Involved in NEED:	<input type="text"/>

If currently in high school, please complete the following:

School Name:

School City:

School State:

Which higher education institution do you plan to attend?

Have you been accepted?

What field are you planning to pursue?

If you already attend a post-secondary or technical school, please complete:

School Name:

School City:

School State:

What field are your pursuing?



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* Leadership Assessment: Please rate **yourself** in the following areas:

	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Outstanding
Leadership skills:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Communication skills:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Energy knowledge and academic ability:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Enthusiastic outlook:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Ability to work in a group setting:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Creativity:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Consistency of effort in studies and/or extracurricular activities:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Attitude toward fellow students:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Attitude toward teachers/mentors:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Independence of ideas:	<input type="checkbox"/>				



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Personal Interests

Please limit your response for each question to 50 words or less.

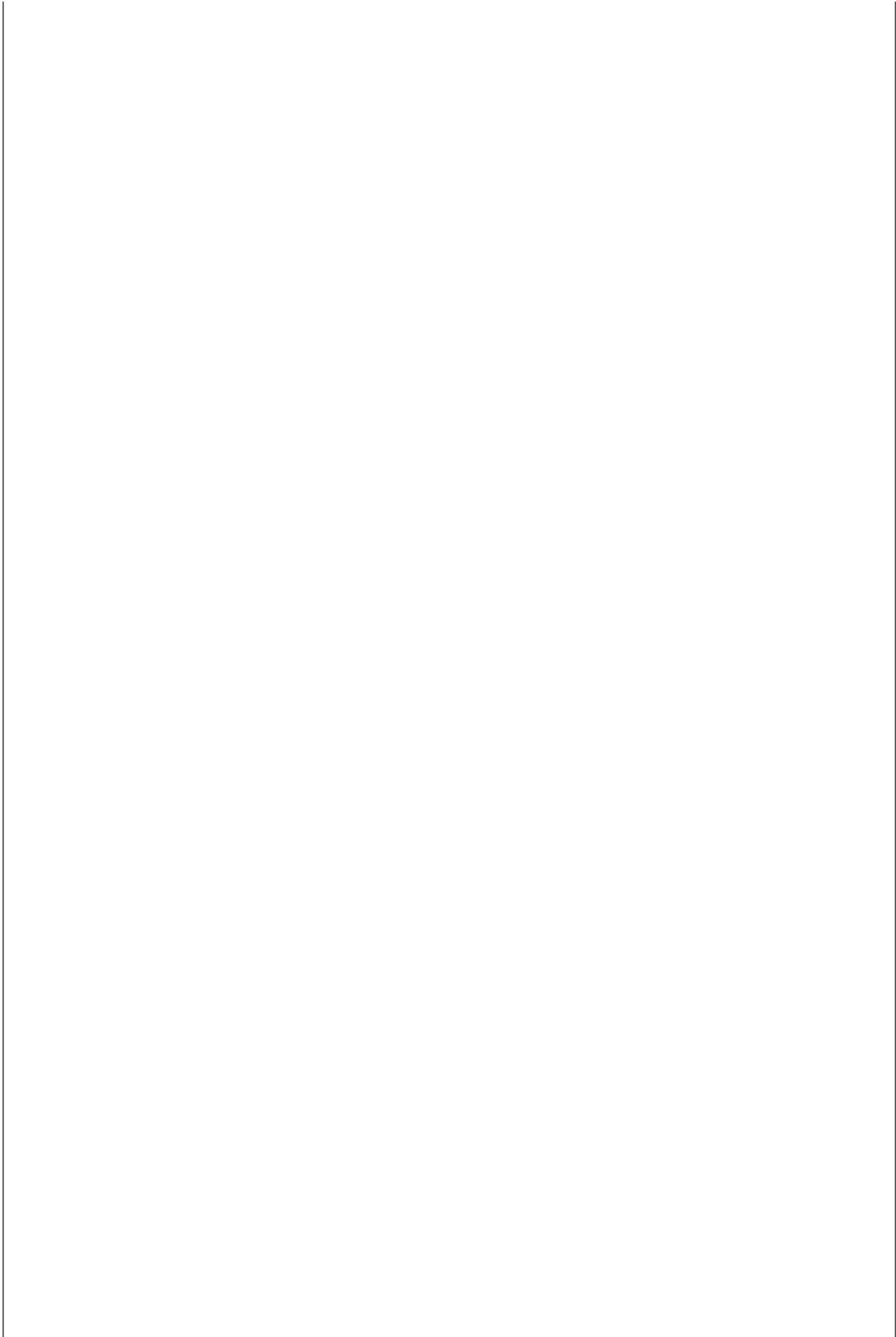
* Do you feel you have made a difference in your high school and/or community NEED program? How?

* What extra-curricular high school activities and leadership positions have you held? (List)

* How did the knowledge gained through NEED prepare you to be an effective leader? Do you consider the energy knowledge gained to be important to your future plans?

* What is the greatest challenge you have had to overcome while in a leadership position?

* In what aspects of energy are you most interested and engaged? Provide details.





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ENERGY LEADERSHIP ESSAY

In 500 words or less, discuss how the skills and knowledge you have developed while involved with NEED have changed you and your approach to everyday life and the energy decisions you must make. Be very clear about the lessons you have learned in relation to energy. Share how you have changed the attitudes, actions or opinions of others as well.

Please upload via a PDF or Word Doc. If you have issues uploading, please email the essay to Mary Spruill at mspruill@need.org.

* Energy Leadership Essay Upload

Allowable file uploads include PDF, DOC, DOCX

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen



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ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARD RECOMMENDATION FORM

Please provide the contact information for **two people** you would like NEED to contact to request a recommendation form on your behalf for this award.

NOTE: A minimum of one recommendation must be from a NEED Project teacher/advisor.

* Recommendation Contact Number One:

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Relation to you
(teacher, mentor,
peer, etc.)

* Recommendation Contact Number Two:

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

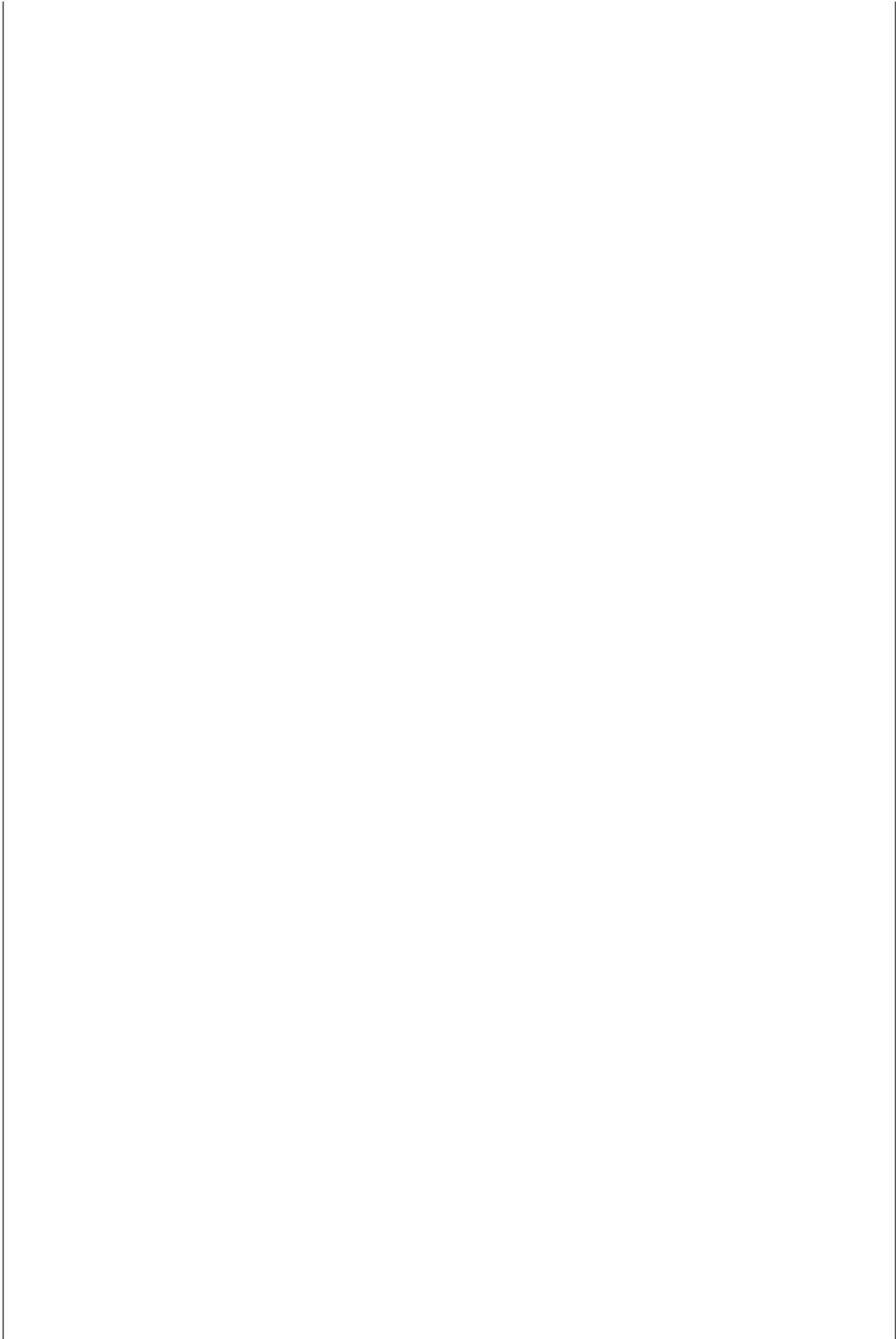
Relation to you
(teacher, mentor,
peer, etc.)

If you already have the letter of recommendation, you may upload it below.
Recommendation #1:

No file chosen

Recommendation #2 Upload:

No file chosen





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* Please upload a high quality digital photo of yourself.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen



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* **Application Signature**

By signing this application, I certify that the information I have provided is accurate and that I will report any changes in this information to NEED as soon as possible.

If selected, I will attend the 2026 NEED Youth Awards happening Friday, June 26th - Monday, June 29th at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA.

NOTE: The award ceremony is held on Monday, June 29th in Washington, D.C. You must be present to receive the award. Expenses will be paid by NEED.