

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia
January 11-16, 2008

Topic: Request for Board Action: Teen Service Award

Background: Members have indicated repeatedly that youth participation is valuable to them in their work and that it is a topic for which YALSA should provide resources. The concept of a teen award was first proposed by Mary K. Chelton at Annual 2006 and the Youth Participation Committee was charged with gauging member interest. A recent survey indicated that members overwhelmingly support a teen award.

Action Required: Action

Request:

That the Youth Participation Committee be charged with developing a proposal for a new teen award that would recognize a teen and/or group of teens that have made a significant contribution to libraries and submit a draft proposal to the Board for feedback for the 2008 Annual Conference.

Rationale:

In the recent member survey to facilitate the next round of strategic planning, when members were asked “What trends relating to teens and libraries do you feel are important to YALSA members?” The number one answer was increasing youth participation in libraries.” A teen service award would provide a means or goal for members to jumpstart youth participation at their local level. YALSA could even provide resources for librarians to institute a local award, whose winner could compete at the national level for YALSA’s award.

Areas of the Strategic Plan the Proposal Supports:

- Advocacy
- Marketing

How the Request Benefits YALSA and the Profession:

An award that recognizes the contributions teens make to libraries promotes youth participation, emphasizes the positive contributions teens make to their communities and raises the profile of YALSA.

Additional Information:

The Young Adult Services Division of the Suffolk and Nassau County Library Association offers a special award for teens called the Best Award (**B**ringing **E**xcellence in **S**ervice by **T**eens). The purpose of the award is to identify and honor teens who have made significant contributions in library services in their community.

B.E.S.T. details:

All Nominees Must:

- Be a Nassau or Suffolk County resident.
- Be a volunteer, employee or other affiliate of any library-related organization.
- Have a library sponsor who submits a recommendation which demonstrates significant library service.
- Be between 13 and 19 years of age.

Other information:

- Each nominee will receive \$150, a certificate of appreciation and letter of commendation by the B.E.S.T. Award Committee.
- Winners will be selected by a committee of the Young Adult Services Division of the Nassau and Suffolk County Library Associations.
- All entries will remain the property of those divisions.