



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

TEEN CHARACTER AWARDS

HONORING TEENS WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

25th Annual Teen Character Awards
Hickory Foundation YMCA

The YMCA Teen Character Awards are an opportunity to recognize area teens who exhibit the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and faith in their everyday lives. Our YMCA Teen Character Award recipients exemplify the Y's commitment to strengthen our community.



Honorees will be recognized and three senior nominees will be selected to receive a \$1,500/\$1,000/\$500 scholarship to help them in their academic pursuits.

If you know an extraordinary teen who displays these qualities, please nominate them for a 2026 Hickory Foundation YMCA Teen Character Award.

For more information please contact Alex Griggs, Teen Director, at alexg@ymcacv.org.



Nominations due: Monday, October 19th
Ceremony: Tuesday, November 3rd



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NOMINATION CRITERIA

- Teenagers, in grades 6–12, who have demonstrated the character values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and faith in an exemplary manner are eligible.
- The nominee's actions, character and leadership has a positive impact on individuals in their efforts at home, school, church and the community.
- Nominations can be submitted by teachers, advisors, coaches, youth leaders, pastors, past winners and other non-related individuals.

NOMINATION RULES

- Completed nominations are due by 5:00pm on October 19th, 2026. No entries will be accepted after the deadline.
- Submission options:
 - Email to alexg@ymcacv.org.
 - Drop off a physical copy at the Hickory Foundation YMCA.
 - Mail to
Hickory Foundation YMCA Teen Character Awards
Attn: Alex Griggs
701 1st Street NW
Hickory NC 28601
- Nominations are judged in two categories: Jr. Varsity (Grades 6–8) and Varsity (Grades 9–12). Teens are eligible for multi-year nomination. Only high school seniors are eligible for the scholarship award.
- You are welcome to nominate as many teens as you would like but please use a separate form for each nomination.
- Applications must be 100% complete. Incomplete applications will not be eligible.
- Acceptance of any award constitutes consent to use the winners' likeness for YMCA advertising and publicity purposes.
- All entries become the property of the YMCA of Catawba Valley and cannot be returned. The YMCA is not responsible for lost, late or misdirected mail.
- The YMCA of Catawba Valley reserves the right to accept or decline any application submitted. Winners are selected by the Teen Character Awards committee and all decisions are final.
- Selected honorees will receive a YMCA Teen Character Award and medallion.

Teen Character Awards Banquet

- The YMCA of Catawba Valley invites its selected honorees along with their families and nominators to a banquet to honor these great Teens and present them with their awards.
- Invitations to the event will be sent out once nominations close. The banquet will take place the evening of Tuesday, November 3rd.
- We ask that you send in a few pictures of your nominee as well to add to a slideshow for the banquet.



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YMCA TEEN CHARACTER AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Nominee: _____ School: _____

Parents' Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

YMCA Member (if known) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Nominator: _____ Relationship to Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

YMCA Member (if known) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Nominations should be one page and typed. Format may be copied from the YMCA Teen Character Awards Questionnaire on the reverse side but must remain one page.

****Nominators:** Please note that the quality and content of nomination submitted can affect the decisions of the committee. Be as thorough as possible while keeping within the space constraints.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED NOMINATIONS BY OCTOBER 19TH, 2026.

Questions?
Alex Griggs
alexg@ymcacv.org



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YMCA TEEN CHARACTER AWARDS QUESTIONNAIRE

What specific activity in the home, at church, at school or in the community has allowed the teen to demonstrate the YMCA core values (Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith), how the values were demonstrated, and how did this activity impact others?

Describe who has been most influential in the teen's life, in developing their character values and how they have done so:

List any activities, clubs, and volunteer service in which the teen participates:

What are this teen's goals for the future: (i.e.: college, career, service opportunities)

How has the teen demonstrated his or her leadership abilities?