



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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**Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
Youth Excellence Award**

PURPOSE:

The objective of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, through the Youth Excellence Award, is to recognize and honor a young adult who has made great strides in his or her life from past involvement with the juvenile justice system. This person will have overcome great obstacles and is currently making positive contributions to society. *This award was modeled on the Coalition of Juvenile Justice Spirit of Youth Award.*

CRITERIA:

The award recipient must be:

- Under the age of 28 years
- Not a member of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth or the Coalition for Juvenile Justice
- A person who was involved in the court system as a juvenile
- Currently involved, directly or indirectly, in bettering the lives of “at-risk” youth

NOMINATIONS:

All members of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will actively promote the Youth Excellence Award by distributing nomination forms to their local juvenile justice agencies and community organizations. They will also want to contact their local media sources to publicize the award and to detail the nomination process.

The Executive Director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will appoint one staff person as the direct liaison for this program. All nominations will be sent to this person and the staff person will be responsible for distributing the nomination forms to the Youth Excellence Award selection committee. The staff person, along with the Executive Director, will be responsible for publicizing the award to local and state press, through Regional Councils, newsletter articles, including *The Advocate*, and on the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Web Site.

All nominations will be submitted using a standard application form and sent to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth office in Nashville. Commission staff members will maintain strict levels of confidentiality when handling the application forms, as the forms may contain sensitive information about nominees.

The Youth Excellence Award selection committee will review and discuss all nominations, and identify three top candidates ranked in order of preference. The selection committee will then present the top three names and their nomination forms to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth for a final decision and approval.

PRESENTATION:

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth will invite the recipient to receive the award, generally at Children's Advocacy Day each year.

The award recipient will be asked to sign a release form granting the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth permission to use the descriptive material and photos without compensation for the sole purpose of promoting recognition for the recipient, the award and the Commission.

The recipient will be announced to the news media and will receive the following from the Commission:

- A plaque
- An entry on the plaque in the Commission's Nashville office that lists Youth Excellence Award recipients for each year
- Recognition in TCCY Annual Report
- Invitation to attend/present at conferences in Tennessee to talk about his/her success in spite of difficulties, as a good example for youth, with TCCY paying for travel and other expenses related to the conferences
- Inclusion of story and a picture in Coalition for Juvenile Justice or Southern Coalition publications

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:

Deadline for 2008 nominations is February 15, 2008.

SELECTION COMMITTEE:

The Chair of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth shall appoint a selection committee and a chair for the selection committee. The selection committee shall consist of all youth members of the Commission who are able and willing to serve. The total number of members on the selection committee shall not exceed seven.

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NOMINATION FORM

This award recognizes and celebrates a young adult, who by overcoming personal obstacles and serving his or her community exemplifies the importance of the rehabilitative focus of the juvenile justice system, as well as the power of personal achievement.

To be eligible, the nominee must satisfy each of the criteria listed below:

- Under the age of 28 years
- Not a member of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth or the Coalition for Juvenile Justice
- A person who was involved in the court system as a juvenile
- Currently involved, directly or indirectly, in bettering the lives of "at-risk" youth

Nominee:			
Name of Nominee: _____			
Address of Nominee: _____			
City: _____		State: _____	Zip _____
Telephone: _____		Fax: _____	Email: _____

Please answer the following questions about the nominee in detail using separate sheets of paper and mail to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Andrew Johnson Tower, 9th Floor, 710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0800. Please limit all supporting material to four pages.

1. How has the nominee transformed his or her life in a positive way?
2. What were some obstacles this person overcame?
3. What contributions has this person made in his or her community?
4. Why are you recommending this person for the *Youth Excellence Award*?

Individual who forwarded this nomination:

Name: _____

Title: _____ Affiliation/Organization. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Deadline: February 15, 2008