



Public Law 96-114, The Congressional Award Act

# Congressional Award

## BENEFITS

- The Congressional Award is a **non-competitive, voluntary** program that is open to all young people age 14 to 23.
- The program is **well – balanced**, containing four diverse program areas that encourage youth to explore new areas of their choosing and learn more about themselves and the world around them.
- Six levels of the Award provide **tangible evidence of success** and effort on the part of the young person, and many youth use their record of achievement in their **college, scholarship, or job applications**.
- Attracts both youth and adults of **all demographics**. An effective youth program attracts a large number of volunteers who derive great satisfaction from sharing their enthusiasm, experience and skills. This program can bridge many gaps – age, socioeconomic, race & religion.
- Provides an opportunity for young people to **learn from adults** who will encourage and support them along the way to earning a Congressional Award.
- Encourages the **establishment of community networks and links**. Enables disadvantaged youth to become a part of the community.
- The Award **empowers young people** to take a greater responsibility for their own lives, to discover new talents, to advocate on behalf of others, and to take positive action in the community.
- The Congressional Award program dovetails nicely with extra-curricular activities in schools, and various youth programs including Key Club, Service Clubs, Scouting, 4-H, HOBY, Close-up, etc. The Award can act as a **value-added component** for the personal development of young people.
- The program **establishes a sense of self-confidence**, and helps to enhance problem-solving skills and the ability to work as part of a team – traits that are valued by employers and institutions of higher education
- The Award scheme **promotes volunteerism**. Young adults who wish to respond to President Bush's appeal for increased volunteerism may do so by participating in the Congressional Award program.
- The Congressional Award program may help to encourage America's youth to lead a **healthier lifestyle** - by pursuing goals and activities in the areas of Physical Activity, Health, and Nutrition.
- The Congressional Award program is **fun!**