



Public Law 96-114, The Congressional Award Act

Congressional Award

Earn the Congressional Award!

Fast Facts on America's Award for Youth

- **What is the Congressional Award?**

The Congressional Award is a public private partnership created by Congress to promote and recognize achievement, initiative and service in America's youth, ages 14 to 23. The Congressional Award provides a unique opportunity for young people to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service, personal development and citizenship. To earn a Congressional Award, participants set and achieve individual goals in four program areas:

- **Voluntary Public Service**
- **Personal Development**
- **Physical Fitness**
- **Expedition/Exploration**

All young people are equally able to earn the Congressional Award, because goals are set based on individual interest, need and ability. A young person is not selected to receive the Congressional Award; he or she earns it.

- **How are adults involved in the program?**

Adult volunteers play a very important role in the Congressional Award program. Adults advise participants on an individual basis, helping them set challenging but achievable goals. Adults also validate participants' activities in the four program areas.

- **How are the Awards presented?**

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate recognize their constituents who earn Congressional Award Bronze and Silver Medals at local, citywide or statewide ceremonies. The Congressional Award Gold Medal Ceremony is held annually in the U.S. Capitol and is presided over by the leadership of the House and Senate. An unlimited number of Congressional Awards may be earned throughout the country.

- **How does the program operate locally?**

The National Office of the Congressional Award Foundation works with Congressional delegations, schools and communities to increase and promote participation in the program. In some areas of the country, Congressional Award Councils promote and administer the program at the local level, with assistance from the National Office.

- **How is the program funded?**

Created by Public Law 96-114, the Congressional Award Act, the Congressional Award receives no federal funding. It is fully funded by charitable contributions. Congress does assist the program by authorizing the U.S. Mint to strike the medals presented to the recipients. In addition, in-kind support is provided through the use of two rooms in the Ford House Office Building for the National Office. The Congressional Award covers the cost of all its equipment, postage and supplies, and remits the cost of phone service to the U.S. Treasury.

For more information or to register on line, visit our web site at
www.congressionalaward.org