



Livingston County Youth Bureau

Livingston County Government Center

6 Court Street, Room 105

Geneseo, NY 14454-1043

Phone: (585) 243-6909 Fax : (585) 243-7598

Ryan Snyder, Director

RyanSnyder@livingstoncountyny.gov

December 4, 2025

Dear Community Member:

The Livingston County Youth Board requests your assistance in our annual Teen Recognition Awards nomination process. Our goal is to recognize and award youth in the county who have demonstrated community involvement, exceptional leadership, or have positively influenced others by overcoming a significant challenge. To be considered eligible, the exemplary teens must be age 15 by February 6, 2026. Youth are eligible while in school and up to high school graduation.

Youth may be awarded in one of three areas:

- 1. Community Involvement**
- 2. Leadership**
- 3. Positive Influence on Others While Overcoming a Significant Challenge**

Community members connected to youth in schools, government, organizations, faith communities, neighborhoods, etc, are invited to nominate a teen whose actions and behaviors over time make the community a better place. Please share this nomination packet with others. If you are a school administrator or guidance staff member please distribute the forms to teachers, student advisors and other school personnel.

Please carefully read the instructions before completing the Nomination Form. **The deadline for submission is Friday, February 6th.** Awardees will receive recognition in a manner orchestrated by the Youth Board.

Both the electronic and downloadable forms are available under the Youth Bureau Department at livingstoncountyny.gov/youth.htm. A nomination may be submitted electronically through the website, emailed to MaryGuldenschuh@livingstoncountyny.gov or a hardcopy may be mailed to Livingston County Youth Bureau, 6 Court Street Room 105 Geneseo, NY 14454. Please contact Mary Guldenschuh by email or phone 243-6909 if you have any questions or need additional information regarding this award.

Sincerely,

Mary Guldenschuh

Mary Guldenschuh
Youth Bureau Deputy Director

Attachments

**2026 Livingston County Youth Board
Teen Recognition Award**

e-Forms available at: livingstoncountyny.gov/youth.htm

- Nominate youth under one of the following categories: **(1) Community Involvement, (2) Leadership, OR (3) Positive Influence on Others While Overcoming a Challenge.**
- They must be **age 15** by February 6, 2026. Youth are eligible while in school and up to high school graduation.
- A nominee may be a Livingston County resident or may reside outside the county and make a significant contribution within Livingston County.
- Academic and/or athletic abilities alone are NOT criteria for selection. What is of importance is the manner in which the youth leads others (cooperative, team player, mentor, leader) will be considered relevant to the nomination.

Instructions

- All nominations need to be completed using the attached form or submitted on-line using the above link. Hard copies must be postmarked by Friday, February 6th or delivered by 4:00PM to be considered.
- Parents, guardians, and relatives are not eligible to make a nomination for relatives. Youth may nominate their peers.
- Nominators are limited to making five (5) nominations total per year and may not nominate the same youth in subsequent years.** See above website for past recipients.
- When nominating youth that belong to a group, each nomination needs to be written separately and the information should be unique to the individual group member. Identify behaviors that stood out in comparison to others in the group. Redundant nominations will be excluded.
- Interview the youth prior to making the nomination. Provide DETAILS to support and substantiate the chosen award category. The publication will discreetly summarize sensitive information.
- Do NOT attach resumes or reference letters.
- Submit forms by 4:00 PM on February 6th to:**

Livingston County Youth Bureau, 6 Court Street, Room 105, Geneseo, NY 14454. Forms may be faxed to (585) 243-7598 or emailed to MaryGuldenschuh@livingstoncountyny.gov

Selection Process

- The Youth Board's Nomination Review Committee will read each nomination to determine eligibility for recognition.
- The written narrative will be evaluated against the established criteria for the chosen category.
- Nominations determined to be ineligible will be returned to nominators, who will be given an opportunity to add content needed to approve the nomination.

Announcement and Presentation of Awards

- The awardees will receive a letter of congratulations and informed of the recognition plan. The nominator is likewise informed of the plan where the youth will receive a formal recognition by the Livingston County Board of Supervisors including certificates from NYS Legislature.

**2026 Livingston County Youth Board
Teen Recognition Award Nomination Form**

Submit nominations on this form. Use one form per youth.

Teen's Last Name: _____	First Name: _____
Age or DOB: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Teen's Mailing Address: _____	
Post Office Box: _____	Email: _____
Teen's City / State: _____ / _____	Zip Code: _____
Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Teen <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/> Cell _____	
Grade Level / School Attending: _____ / _____ Township of Residence: _____	
Nominator Information: Nominator Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/> Cell _____ I certify I am <u>not</u> related to the nominee: _____ (initial) Organization/School Affiliation: _____ Mailing Address: _____ City / State: _____ / _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____ Your relationship to the teen: _____	

✓ Choose **ONLY ONE** type of award that best fits your nominee:

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Community Involvement Describe in detail the nominee's role/contribution within the community and their commitment to volunteerism and community service. Please list the youth's participation in organizations, committees, or community groups.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership by enlisting the aid and support of others to accomplish a common goal. <u>Athletic and academic abilities alone are not criteria for selection.</u> Leadership on and off the field or in and out of the classroom must be clearly demonstrated. The manner in which the teen leads such as being cooperative, acting as a role model, motivating others or mentoring is more relevant to the nomination than the athletic or academic skill.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Positive Influence on Others While Overcoming a Challenge Some youth will experience challenging personal issues such as illness, disability, substance abuse, or loss of a loved one that affects their life. The key component in this category is the teen uses the struggle as motivation to <u>influence others positively</u>. All sensitive information will remain confidential.</p>
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Please **interview the youth** to identify interests and service work. This conversation is an opportunity to collect additional information about other areas of their life of which you may not be aware. Read excellent sample narratives below.

Was the youth interviewed? Yes No

Check all the groups the youth is a member of:

4H Band Chess Chorus Church _____ Drama/Theater
 FFA Foreign Language Junior or National Honor Society Rotary Interact Scouts
 Student Council as _____ Technology Yearbook Others: _____

Add more pages if the space is needed to respond to the questions.

Sample Nominations

Award Type One: Community Involvement

Joe Jones is an all around great guy! He has been an altar server at St. Mary's Church for eight years and has helped at church fundraisers even hulling strawberries for the Strawberry Social! Whatever the sport he tried (football, wrestling and track & field) he always is the kid to give some tips to the younger and or less experienced kids so they can improve in that sport. Joe and his brother have been cutting wood for several years for a co-worker of his brothers that is incapacitated. His kindness begins at home by shoveling snow at his grandmothers and a neighbors without being asked to do so and feeds his brothers dog when his brother is out of town working. At Hemlock Fair he has volunteered for many hours at the 4-H food tent helping Ron Niedermaier. He can do any of the jobs needed but he also is laid back enough to instruct the younger kids in an easy going manner that does not intimidate. When Joe showed animals at the fairs, the younger kids would come up to him and ask him for advice, which he would give or show them what they needed to do. Joe was the June Student of the Month due to his strong work ethic and kindness to others at Geneseo Valley Career Partnership.

Award Type Two: Leadership

Mary Smith is a genuine role model for others in Ossian as well as all of Livingston County. She is a shining and outstanding example of true commitment to volunteerism leading by example in all she is involved in. Mary is a member of the Livingston County 4-H Teen Council where she serves as the vice-president. In Teen Council, Mary has been involved in the 4-H Gingerbread Project for Dansville's Winter in the Village. She has also gone with 4-H teens to the Livingston County Nursing Home to play games with the residents. Mary is involved with a County 4-H pony club and independently focuses on horses. At the Genesee Valley Horse Races, Mary volunteered giving pony races to the public. Mary is a member of the Dansville High School National Honor Society. For her community service she has been cleaning the Ossian Town Hall. During this past Labor Day weekend, Mary and her swimming team made and served breakfast to the public. Mary has helped with Dansville Sunshine Softball for three years working with younger players demonstrating her athletic and leadership skills. Mary is a member of the Dansville High School Band where she plays flute. She is a member of St. Mary's Young Adult Faith Formation where she was involved with Project Christmas giving gifts to children in need. An inspiration to us all, Mary surrounds her life in kindness, as she is involved giving to the ill, needy and elderly and encouraging and leading others. Mary is quiet upon approach with a very sweet manner and beautiful smile. She is eager and passionate in whatever she engages in yet always aware and encouraging of others. Ossian is proud to have a young lady such as Mary who leads by example with character, enthusiasm, determination, and devotion. Whatever path she chooses, others will be blessed to have her as part of their team.

Award Type Three: Positive Influence on Others While Overcoming a Challenge

Jane Jones has been through a lot in her life. She has never known her father and her mother has been in and out of jail for Jane's whole life. She lived with her brother and his father for a time and would roam the streets of the city of Chicago when she was four years old. She then went to live with her grandparents. Her grandparents gave her up at the age of 10 and she went to live with her mom. That situation did not work and she ended up in a foster care home. From there she had a choice at the age of 11 to be adopted by a teacher or go live with her uncle. She chose family and that is where she remains today. She feels that because of all the negativity around her people expected her to take the wrong path. In order to prove them wrong she intentionally remained in school and on the path toward a better life. She feels that what she has gone through has made her independent and very level headed. She is able to weigh her options when confronted with a choice and able to see the big picture, which is fantastic for one so young. People admire her; I know I do, for all she has achieved despite her background. Friends come to her for her insight and her ability to put their lives in perspective for them. Her future includes the National Guard - training in South Carolina and then AIT in Virginia. After that she plans on going to a two-year college and then transferring. She would love to find work in the nutrition and psychology fields. Jane sums her life up with this statement: One needs to take what happens to them and learn from it. She is an amazing individual!