



## Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Phone 307-777-7673 Fax 307-777-6234 Website [www.k12.wy.us](http://www.k12.wy.us)

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### MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-148

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Principals

**FROM:** Jim McBride, Ed.D. 

**DATE:** September 25, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

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#### TIME SENSITIVE

Recognizing middle and high school students for volunteer service in their communities occurs annually through the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

I received the attached information regarding recognition for last year and the opportunity to participate this year in this program. Please note the application deadline of November 2, 2009.

Please share this information appropriately with your students and staff.

Thank you.

JM:kl

Attachments (2)



THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HONORING OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE BY YOUNG AMERICANS

September 8, 2009

Dr. Jim McBride  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Wyoming Department of Education  
2300 Capitol Avenue - 2nd Floor - The Hathaway Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050



Dear Superintendent McBride:

You may recall that two students from your state, Anna Shafer of Big Piney and Morgan Mariner of Douglas, were honored in Washington, D.C., last May for their outstanding community service by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Today we are beginning the search for more top youth volunteers in Wyoming as we kick off the 15<sup>th</sup> year of our awards program.

As in past years, we will be soliciting applications from young Wyomingites in grades 5-12 through middle level and high schools, as well as through Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs and affiliates of HandsOn Network. Wyoming's top middle level and high school youth volunteers for 2010 will be announced February 9 and brought to Washington next May for another four days of special recognition events, along with the top two applicants from every other state and the District of Columbia.

Details can be found in the enclosed news release announcing the kickoff of the 2010 program in your state, and at <http://spirit.prudential.com> and [www.principals.org/prudential](http://www.principals.org/prudential). If your office has any way of helping us spread the word in Wyoming about this opportunity for young volunteers to be thanked and recognized for their wonderful work – through newsletters, Web sites, or any other means – we would greatly appreciate your assistance. We will notify you of your top honorees in February.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, the nation's largest and most prestigious youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service, has honored nearly 90,000 youth volunteers over the past 14 years at the local, state and national level. We thank you for your support and look forward to recognizing more outstanding young Wyomingites in the coming year.

Sincerely,

John R. Strangfeld  
Chairman and CEO  
Prudential Financial

Gerald N. Tirozzi  
Executive Director  
National Association of Secondary School Principals

# HELP US HONOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

THE 2010 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS



RECOGNIZING MIDDLE AND  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
IN THEIR COMMUNITIES



APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 2, 2009

# THE 2010 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

**What are The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards?**  
The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were created in 1995 to recognize students in middle and high school grades who have demonstrated exemplary community service. These prestigious awards, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), are presented annually on the local, state and national level.

## How does the program work?

1. Young volunteers in grades 5-12 complete an application online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or [www.principals.org/prudential](http://www.principals.org/prudential) by November 2, 2009 (access key: spirit). Then they print it out and fax the signed signature page to (615) 627-9685.
2. Applicants submit their entire application to their school principal or to the head of one of these officially designated local organizations: a Girl Scout council, county 4-H group, American Red Cross chapter, YMCA, or affiliate of HandsOn Network.
3. Each participating school or organization reviews the applications of its students and selects one middle level Local Honoree for every 1,000 students in grades 5-8, and/or one high school Local Honoree for every 1,000 students in grades 9-12.
4. Principals or organization heads certify applications of their selected Local Honorees online by November 9, 2009.
5. The top high school and middle level youth volunteer in each state and the District of Columbia are named State Honorees in February, and from two to ten runners-up in each state are named Distinguished Finalists.
6. Ten of the State Honorees are named America's top ten youth volunteers of the year by a distinguished national selection committee at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., in May.

## What do honorees receive?

- Local Honorees receive Certificates of Achievement from their schools or organizations. Those who qualify also receive the President's Volunteer Service Award.
- State Honorees receive \$1,000, engraved silver medallions, and an all-expense-paid trip with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., in May for several days of recognition events, including award ceremonies, sight-seeing tours, and Congressional visits on Capitol Hill.
- Distinguished Finalists (runners-up at the state level) receive engraved bronze medallions.
- Other top applicants at the state level receive Certificates of Excellence.
- National Honorees receive additional \$5,000 awards, engraved gold medallions, and crystal trophies for their schools or organizations. They also receive \$5,000 grants from The Prudential Foundation for nonprofit charitable organizations of their choice.

## Who is eligible?

Any student who:

- is in grades 5-12 as of November 2, 2009, and is a legal resident of one of the 50 states of the United States or the District of Columbia
- has engaged in a volunteer activity that occurred at least in part after September 1, 2008
- completes an application and submits it to a school principal or the head of an officially designated local organization by November 2, 2009.

For more information:

<http://spirit.prudential.com>  
[www.principals.org/prudential](http://www.principals.org/prudential)  
1-877-525-8491  
[spirit@principals.org](mailto:spirit@principals.org)

More than 90,000 young people have been honored with Prudential Spirit of Community Awards over the past 14 years!

## IMPORTANT DATES

### September 2009

Online application form is available at <http://spirit.prudential.com> and [www.principals.org/prudential](http://www.principals.org/prudential). Program information is mailed to all middle level and high schools and to officially designated local organizations (see below).

### November 2, 2009

Deadline for students to complete applications online, fax the signed signature page to (615) 627-9685, and submit printout of application to a school principal or the head of an officially designated local organization.

### November 2-9, 2009

Participating schools and organizations review applications and select Local Honorees, then nominate them for state-level judging by certifying their applications online.

### February 9, 2010

Judges name the top middle level and high school youth volunteer in every state and the District of Columbia as State Honorees.

### May 1-4, 2010

102 State Honorees attend national recognition events in Washington, D.C., at which time America's top ten youth volunteers of the year are announced.

Applicants must submit completed applications to one of the following:

- A middle level or high school
- A Girl Scout council
- A county 4-H organization
- An American Red Cross chapter
- A YMCA
- An affiliate of HandsOn Network

## THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM IS WIDELY SUPPORTED!

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The program is supported by the National 4-H Council, Girl Scouts of the USA, American Red Cross, HandsOn Network (generated by the Points of Light Institute), YMCA of the USA, Key Club International, the America's Promise Alliance, United National Indian Tribal Youth, the American Association of School Administrators, the Council of the Great City Schools, the National Middle School Association, the National School Boards Association, the National School Public Relations Association, and numerous other national organizations.



On the front page:

Former First Lady Laura Bush congratulates Texas' 2009 State Honorees, Patrick Foster and Shelby Romero.

