



2009-2010 Youth for Unity Leadership Awards Instructions

Introduction

The Youth for Unity Leadership Awards recognize the top three Boys & Girls Clubs in each of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA) five regions and military sites that have been the most effective in developing and implementing **youth-led projects that address community diversity issues as identified by Club youth**. This award competition is an annual component of BGCA's national diversity program, Youth for Unity, made possible through the generous support of The Allstate Foundation.

The Youth for Unity Leadership Awards feature cash prizes for the most outstanding projects in each region:

- \$3,000 for gold
- \$2,000 for silver
- \$1,000 for bronze

Diversity projects may involve one area of a community; one or more units or Clubs; or entire Boys & Girls Club organizations. All projects **must have been implemented during the 2009 calendar year through February 28, 2010**.

Youth-led projects can consist of one-time events or ongoing activities to create a new effort or support an existing initiative. Examples of youth-led projects include:

- organizing Club- and/or community-based projects that introduce younger members and community youth to the issue of diversity;
- developing tolerance-education projects and campaigns to combat negative stereotypes and ignorance in the broader community;
- providing assistance to a special-needs group – such as the elderly – within the community;
- bringing together different population groups within the community; and
- participating in an event or activity that has a positive impact on a current diversity issue within the community.

In addition, winning Clubs may be asked to share their project models and experiences with other Clubs through presentations at various BGCA forums and events, and provide technical assistance and consultations as requested and assigned by BGCA.



Application Instructions

To enter the 2009-2010 Youth for Unity Leadership Awards competition, download the application form from www.bgca.net, save it to your hard drive, type in your information, save again and print out your completed application. The application form must be completed using a type size **no smaller than 10 points**. Have your chief professional officer and unit director (if applicable) sign the first page of the application.

Mail your completed application so it **arrives by 5:00 p.m. EST on March 15, 2010**, to:

Marvin B. Laster
Director, Diversity Services
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
1275 Peachtree St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

If you have questions about the awards or application, please contact Marvin B. Laster at mlaster@bgca.org or (404) 487-5940.