

John Lewis Youth Leadership Award

Description:

The John Lewis Youth Leadership Award was created in February 2021, as a way for National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) members to recognize a gifted, civic-minded young person in their state each year. The recipient should demonstrate leadership abilities, have a passion for social justice, and be motivated to improve the quality of life in their community.

Eligibility:

- The recipient must be 25 years old or younger at the time of the award presentation.
- The recipient is recognized in their community for being civic-minded and improving the quality of life in their community. The community must be in the awarding NASS Member's state/territory (i.e., South Dakota).
- The recipient has shown a meaningful commitment to address civil rights issues, including but not limited to voting rights, and to authentically bring about positive change in his or her community.
- Examples could include youth leadership in a specific project or program, advocacy, or even literature as the Congressman also won a National Book Award for young people's literature.

Submission Deadline:

Submissions must be emailed to elections@state.sd.us by 5:00 PM Central Time (CT) on November 1, 2026 in order to be considered.

Supporting Materials:

Please send a picture of the recipient with this nomination form. Up to ten pages of supporting materials, including news releases, news articles, or social media posts may also be included as part of your submission, as long as they are digitized (no hard copies, please).

Disclaimer:

Entries may be used for social media and other marketing materials for the South Dakota Secretary of State's office.

Please attach an image of the nominee as well as any other supporting materials when you submit this nomination form.

Nominator Information:

1. Name:

A.

2. Title:

A.

3. Organization:

A.

4. Phone Number:

A.

5. Email Address:

A.

6. How long have you known the nominee?

A.

Nominee Information:

1. Name:

A.

2. Age:

A.

3. Address w/ City, State, and Zip Code:

A.

4. Phone:

A.

5. Email:

A.

6. High School/College/University:

A.

Questions for the Nominator:

1. What organizations is the nominee currently involved with (work/volunteer)?

A.

2. Identify the community (people or place) that the nominee advocates for and/or those that work within the organizations that they are involved in.

A.

3. Provide an in-depth description of how the nominee has improved the quality of life for those in their community. Include specific activities.

A.

4. Give one example of an important success that the nominee has had or an impactful outcome that they had a role in achieving.

A.

5. Describe a challenge that the nominee has overcome while doing the work that qualifies them for the John Lewis Youth Leadership Award.

A.

Miscellaneous:

1. Is there any other information that you would like to provide about the nominee?

A.