

## Tips for Writing a Great Youth Spark Award Nomination

Writing a great nomination ensures that your nominee gets noticed by the selection committee.

Quality over quantity is important here. We've put together a few tips and best practices to make sure your nomination stands out:

### **Don't just say your nominee is outstanding – prove it!**

It's important to use specific and concrete examples to illustrate how your nominee meets each of the award criteria. Provide examples of how your nominee has demonstrated outstanding character and is a deserving candidate for the award.

### **Be original!**

We encourage you to nominate more than one youth but don't copy and paste their nomination, even if they are involved in the same activities. Tell us about that youth's unique contributions.

### **Be curious!**

Sometimes this takes a bit of investigation if you only know the youth in one facet of their life. Think about talking to parents, coaches, teachers or other people in the youth's life to gain a better understanding of all their amazing qualities.

### **Keep it Simple!**

Remember that longer doesn't necessarily mean better. When presenting your nominee, keep your explanations clear and to the point while ensuring there is enough information for the selection panel to make their decision. Using point form is completely okay and sometimes easier for the selection committee to read.

### **Be intentional!**

Tell us you truly believe this youth is deserving of the award. Show us how they have exemplified the nomination category and how they have touched the lives of others.

### **Choose the right words!**

Strong nominations will often include persuasive nouns such as:

- |                 |               |                |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| • determination | • creativity  | • recognition  |
| • drive         | • mentor      | • selflessness |
| • innovation    | • teamwork    | • performance  |
| • impact        | • hidden hero | • leadership   |
| • commitment    | • respect     |                |
| • role model    |               |                |

adjectives such as:

- |               |                 |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • trusted     | • generous      | • conscientious |
| • dedicated   | • inspirational | • incomparable  |
| • persuasive  | • passionate    | • exemplary     |
| • resourceful | • enthusiastic  | • fair          |
| • persevering | • sympathetic   | • admired       |
| • unflustered | • supportive    | • vibrant       |
| • positive    | • articulate    | • diligent      |

and phrases such as:

- making a difference
- succeeding against the odds
- going over and above
- mentor and role model
- overcoming obstacles.