



## 2017 New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award

### 1. About the Excellence Award

#### About the New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award and the Founder's Award

Both the New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award and the Founder's Award recognize outstanding summer programs or models that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for young people between pre-kindergarten and twelfth grade.

The awards are given annually based on an application process that elicits information on a program's history, mission, goals, operations, management, staff development, partnerships, outcomes/results, and sustainability.

The application is collected via SurveyMonkey and must be completed in one sitting. **Applications are due February 1, 2017.** To complete the application, follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017ExcellenceAward>.

Programs are measured against the new Summer Learning Program Quality Assessment (SLPQA), developed in partnership between NSLA and the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality.

Applications are reviewed by NSLA staff in addition to representatives from peer organizations in the field followed by interviews for a select group of semi-finalists. Site visits are conducted to a group of finalists to observe program activities before announcing the awards.

In December NSLA will host an interactive webinar featuring tips for your application and best practices from our 2016 winners. Please sign up for the Summer Times to stay up to date: [www.summerlearning.org/newsletter-sign-up](http://www.summerlearning.org/newsletter-sign-up)

#### About The National Summer Learning Association:

The National Summer Learning Association is the only national nonprofit exclusively focused on closing the achievement gap through high-quality summer learning for all children and youth. Our work centers on three strategic priorities:

- Recognizing and disseminating what works in summer learning.
- Offering expertise and support for programs and communities to strengthen and expand summer learning opportunities.
- Convening leaders and advocating for summer learning as a solution for equity and excellence in education.

Our vision is that all children and youth have access to high-quality summer learning experiences to help them succeed in college, career, and life.

[Click here for more information about NSLA](#)



## 2017 New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award

### 2. Application Process, Recognition and Benefits, Eligibility Requirements

#### Application Process:

- Round One: Complete the online application
- Round Two: Complete pre-interview survey and phone Interview (for up to 16 semi-finalists)
- Round Three: Site Visit (for up to 8 finalists)

Written applications and pre-interview surveys are collected online and reviewed by NSLA staff, partners, and previous winners. Phone interviews are also conducted by a mixed group of NSLA staff and external experts. Finally, NSLA staff conduct site visits to a select group of finalists to observe program activities before selecting award winners. The New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award seeks to find and draw national attention to exemplary programs which provide and expand access to high-quality summer learning experiences for all young people. The award does not give preference to applicants based on program location or size. However, NSLA strongly encourages applications from programs in the following categories:

1. STEM or STEAM (includes digital media)
2. Early Literacy
3. College & Career Readiness
4. Serving boys or young men of color
5. Targeting key transition period (elementary to middle, middle to high, high to college)
6. Health & Wellness
7. English Language Learners (ELL)
8. Leadership & Teamwork
9. Anytime, Anywhere Learning

#### Special Designation: The Founder's Award

The New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award is defined by its rigorous application and selection process. Until 2015, programs applied for a single designation and eligibility was limited to enrollment-based programs employing staff who work directly with youth. This approach yielded strong results, but limited NSLA's ability to recognize informal programs that are critical to the diverse needs of schools, families and children. Additionally, it limited NSLA's ability to recognize summer learning innovators in high-interest areas.

In response, while NSLA will continue to recognize winners showing overall excellence in comprehensive programming, NSLA also recognizes "Founder's Award" summer learning innovations in high-interest categories such as, but not limited to:

- **Drop-In** Programs (any program or offering that is site-based, but does not officially enroll young people.)
- **Wrap-Around** Programs (a program that provides services for young people to fill the gap of multiple programs, but does not specifically operate in partnership with one specific program.)
- **Non Site-Specific** Programs (remote or plug-in programs, i.e., digital badging or any program not based at any one specific site that summer programs may use or any child may log-in to use independently)
- **State or National Models** (a curriculum or model that many sites use across a network, state, or nationally, but that the applicant does not implement directly)
- **Summer Learning Systems** Communities that have developed a system-level collaborative efforts to coordinate summer learning opportunities for youth.
- **Other** non-enrollment based programs

If you feel this applies to your program or model, consider applying for the Founder's Award [here](#). If you have any questions contact Leslie Gabay-Swanston, Director of Community System Building at NSLA: [leslie@summerlearning.org](mailto:leslie@summerlearning.org).

## Why Apply for an Excellence in Summer Learning Award?

Just by submitting an application for one of the New York Life Summer Learning Awards, your program will receive a feedback summary outlining strengths and areas for improvement.

All finalists that do not win the award receive a detailed feedback report similar to having a full quality assessment and phone call with two members of the NSLA Program Quality Team. A quality assessment for one single program site is valued at up to \$4,000.

### As an award winner your program will receive...

- A monetary award of up to \$10,000 generously provided by the New York Life Foundation
- Visibility at the [Summer Changes Everything](#)™ national conference and in a NSLA [Summer Times](#) e-newsletter.
- Invitations to participate in panel discussions, funder summits, webinars, or conference presentations with or on behalf of NSLA.
- National exposure through a NSLA press release during the busy summer learning media season, along with a template press release and talking points to promote your program.
- Professional development opportunities with peer organizations through NSLA's new affinity group structure.
- Possible future case studies or features in NSLA presentations, publications, or reports widely distributed throughout the education field and staged on [summerlearning.org](#).

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, applicants must:

- Be a public or private organization or agency (schools, community-based organizations, libraries, universities, faith-based organizations, etc.) OR a collaboration of the aforementioned organizations or agencies\*;
- Serve young people between pre-kindergarten and twelfth grade over the summer months;
- Have paid staff who are responsible for administration, implementation, and finances;
- Strive to accelerate academic achievement and promote healthy development as a central goal of the program;
- Have operated the program model for at least two summers;
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to equity and to expanding access to summer learning in high-poverty communities.

Additional consideration will be given to programs serving disadvantaged communities or populations.

**Restrictions: Previous winners of the Excellence Award may not apply for the award.**

\* If your program represents a collaboration between two or more organizations or is a part of a national organization, please submit only one application prepared collaboratively rather than separate applications for the same program or model prepared by the different representatives.

**By clicking the NEXT button (below) you acknowledge that you have read and understand all the information above (application process, benefits and recognition you will receive, and eligibility requirements) and certify that you meet the eligibility requirements for the award.**



### 3. Contact Information

**\* 1. Please fill in the contact information for the summer program and lead organization/agency:**

Name of the Lead Organization or Agency:	<input type="text"/>
Name of the Summer Program:	<input type="text"/>
Organization website:	<input type="text"/>
Organization facebook:	<input type="text"/>
Organization twitter:	<input type="text"/>

**\* 2. Please fill in the contact information for the applicant:**

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Title:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Address 2:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
State:	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
ZIP:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>



#### 4. Application Instructions

Each question should be answered in 1,000 characters or less, unless otherwise noted. If a question does not apply to your program please type or select N/A meaning “not applicable.”

Before beginning each section NSLA recommends typing your answer in a word document, checking that you have not exceeded the character limit, and then pasting it in the appropriate place. Be sure to save your word document in case you should lose internet connectivity or your application does not go through.

To help prepare your answers, you can find the complete application in word document on our “How to Apply” page on the NSLA website: [http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=excellence\\_how\\_apply](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=excellence_how_apply).

If you have any difficulties please email Leslie Gabay-Swanston, Director of Community System Building at NSLA: [leslie@summerlearning.org](mailto:leslie@summerlearning.org).

**ONCE BEGINNING THE APPLICATION YOU MUST COMPLETE IT. YOU CANNOT RETURN TO YOUR APPLICATION AT ANOTHER TIME.**



5. 2015 Excellence in Summer Learning Award: Part A

\* 3. The summer program is...

- ☐ Enrollment-based
- ☐ Drop-in
- ☐ Not site-specific (remote or plug-in program that summer learning programs use)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

\* 4. In 1,800 characters or less, discuss the history, mission and vision of the summer learning program.

\* 5. What year did this summer program begin serving students? (please enter a whole number only)

\* 6. Total number of youth served during summer 2016 (please enter a whole number only):

\* 7. Total number of sites the summer program operates (please enter a whole number only):

\* 8. Grade levels served: (choose all that apply)

☐ Elementary ☐ Transition to middle school ☐ Middle school ☐ Transition to high-school ☐ High-school

☐ Transition to college

☐ Other (please specify)

\* 9. Geographic location of the summer program:

☐ Urban

☐ Rural

☐ Suburban

\* 10. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Rate (please write as a whole number. For example, a rate of 74% should be written as 74):

\* 11. Adult to youth ratio (Please write in the format 1:1)

\* 12. Percentage of students who receive free or reduced meals as determined by income eligibility guidelines from the National School Lunch program (please write as a whole number. For example, a rate of 74% should be written as 74):

\* 13. Total program hours (please enter a whole number. For example, if your program operates for 150 hours each summer please enter 150):

\* 14. Can youth attend or participate in the program for multiple summers without repeating content?

☐ Yes

☐ No

\* 15. Does the program use materials and lessons that are different from the school year?

☐ Yes

☐ No

\* 16. Does the program employ at least one certified teacher?

☐ Yes

☐ No

\* 17. Total summer budget (do not include any symbols. For example \$25,000 should be entered as 25000):



\* 18. What is the makeup of the program's budget? (Please write as a whole number. For example, 5% should be written as 5. Total must not exceed 100%)

Title I	<input type="text"/>
Title III	<input type="text"/>
21st Century Community Learning Centers	<input type="text"/>
USDA Summer Food Service Reimbursement	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal	<input type="text"/>
State Education Agency Budget	<input type="text"/>
Migrant Education	<input type="text"/>
ASES	<input type="text"/>
Other State	<input type="text"/>
School District	<input type="text"/>
Mayor's Office	<input type="text"/>
Municipal Funding	<input type="text"/>
Other Local/City/Municipal	<input type="text"/>
Program Fees	<input type="text"/>
Private Foundations	<input type="text"/>
Individual Giving	<input type="text"/>
Subsidized Child Care Vouchers	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

This completes Part A of the New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award application. The next section includes essay questions. We recommend saving these questions in a separate word document should you lose internet connectivity and to ensure you meet length requirements. You can find a copy of the application here: <http://www.summerlearning.org/summerexcellence>.

YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR APPLICATION AND RETURN AT A LATER TIME; APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ONE SITTING.



## 6. Excellence in Summer Learning Award: Part B

The following questions are based on The Summer Learning Program Quality Assessment (SLPQA), developed jointly by the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality and NSLA. For more information about the SLPQA please email Leslie Gabay-Swanston, Director of Community System Building at NSLA: [leslie@summerlearning.org](mailto:leslie@summerlearning.org).

**Please answer each question in 1,000 characters or less**, unless otherwise noted. If a question does not apply to your program please type N/A meaning “not applicable.”

Before beginning each section NSLA recommends typing your answer in a word document, checking that you have not exceeded the word limit, and then pasting it in the appropriate place. For a word document version of this application please follow this link: <http://www.summerlearning.org/summerexcellence>. Be sure to save your word document in case you should lose internet connectivity or your application does not go through. **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THIS APPLICATION; THE APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED IN ONE SITTING.**

If you have any difficulties please email Leslie Gabay-Swanston, Director of Community System Building at NSLA: [leslie@summerlearning.org](mailto:leslie@summerlearning.org).

### Section 1: Purpose

- \* 19. Describe the population of young people served by the program and the need for the program in the community.

- \* 20. List the program's youth outcome goals. (For example, 15% of all 3rd grade students who participate in the program will improve their reading score on the reading assessment by at least 1 grade level by the end of the summer)

- \* 21. List the program's quality improvement goals. (For example, by the beginning of the program, we will develop at least four program principles which will be the basis for how staff and youth interact with each other during the summer.)

**Section 2: Unique Program Culture & Belonging**

- \* 22. Please list the strategies used to communicate your program values and ideals to the summer program's participants and staff.

- \* 23. Please describe an activity or ritual that shows the principles listed above in action. How were the valued ideals/principles integrated into the activity and/or ritual?

**Section 3: Active Learning**

- \* 24. Describe an activity that took place during summer 2016 that involved youth engaging with (creating, combining, reforming) materials or ideas or improving a skill through guided practice.

**Section 4: Planning, Choice, and Reflection**

- \* 25. When does planing begin for the next summer session?

- \* 26. Were any youth asked to provide input on curriculum, program, or lesson plan design or content this year? If so, about how many youth? What types of input did they provide and how? If not, please type "N/A."

- \* 27. How long is your program day? Of that time, how much is dedicated to physical activity per day? (350 characters)

#### Section 5: Higher Order Thinking

- \* 28. How does staff encourage youth in using their creativity, curiosity, or imagination?

#### Section 6: Staff Training

- \* 29. Does the program require any training for staff before the summer session starts? If so, does the training include time for staff to practice or plan lessons together? Do staff have the opportunity to facilitate any part of the training?

- \* 30. Does the program have a set process for staff observations and feedback during the summer? If so, are all staff observed? How frequently do observations occur? Is there a planned process for the observer to provide feedback to the staff who were observed? Is feedback given after all observations, just some, or none?

#### Section 7: Family Connections

- \* 31. Describe the way the program communicates with families. How often is information shared before the summer, during the summer program, and throughout the year? Does the program bring participants and their families together during the school year at any time?

**Section 8: Individualization**

- \* 32. How does the program determine the social, academic, or developmental assets and needs of individual youth that can be supported during the program? Is the information the program collects related to program goals? When does assessment or data collection occur?

- \* 33. How are the results of the pre-program assessment used? Does the program have strategies for modifying activities for youth of varying abilities or dispositions? If yes, please provide an example. How common is this practice? If no, please write "N/A."

**This completes Part B of the Excellence in Summer Learning Award application.**



## 7. Share your spark!

### Section 10: Summer Spark! (This section is optional)

#### Make the Case!

Use this space to give an example of a specific program practice that is special and unique to your program. We're looking for innovative ideas in specific areas, but not limited to the following:

STEM or STEAM (includes digital media)

Early Literacy

College & Career Readiness

Serving boys or young men of color

Targeting key transition period (elementary to middle, middle to high, high to college)

Health & Wellness

English Language Learners (ELL)

Leadership & Teamwork

Anytime, Anywhere Learning

34. Use this space to give an example of a specific program practice that is special and unique to your program.

35. Please enter a youtube or vimeo link to a video about your program:



## 8. Outreach

### \* 36. How did you hear about the Excellence Award?

- ☐ Email from NSLA
- ☐ Email from colleague/friend
- ☐ NSLA website
- ☐ Other organization calendar/website
- ☐ At a training hosted by NSLA
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ I am a previous applicant
- ☐ Other (please specify)





## 9. Consent

**\* 37. Please type your name below to agree with the following statement, which allows NSLA to use the contents of your application for purposes promoting our mission:**

*I hereby grant the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) permission to use our organization's name and contents of this application and any information or photos collected as part of the subsequent steps of the process, including video submissions, to promote the mission and programs of the organization. Content may be used in brochures, program profiles, letters, websites, presentations, publications and other promotional materials determined by NSLA.*

Name

Email Address

Date



## 2017 New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award

### 10. Thank You!

Thank you for applying for the 2017 New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award. **Your application is NOT complete until you click "DONE" below.**

**Please click the DONE button (below) to submit your application.**

You will receive a confirmation when you click the button below from Survey Monkey in the form of a web page that will say your survey has been successfully completed.

If you have any questions, you can reach Leslie Gabay-Swanston, Director of Community System Building at NSLA by email: [leslie@summerlearning.org](mailto:leslie@summerlearning.org) or by phone: (410) 856-1370 x 204.

Visit NSLA's website here: [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org)

Follow NSLA on twitter: [@summerlearning](https://twitter.com/summerlearning)

Like NSLA on facebook: [National Summer Learning Association](https://www.facebook.com/NationalSummerLearningAssociation)