1. About the Founder's 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. To download a copy of the application follow this link: www.summerlearning.org/2017FoundersAward.

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: http://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.

The Founder's Award

Programs or summer learning models (including national models) can apply to this award if they operate as a drop-in site or plug-in program used by summer learning programs or are summer learning system. Also eligible are wrap-around programs that do not partner with a traditional site or enrollment-based summer program, but provide learning or enrichment opportunities during the summer.

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 Founder's Award, sponsored by the New York Life Foundation, seeks to find and draw national attention to exemplary models 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 Readiness
4. Serving boys or young men of color
5. Targeting key transition period (elementary to middle, middle to high, high to college)
6. Workforce Development/Career Readiness
7. English Language Learners (ELL)

Excellence Award Affiliation

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 that this applies to your program, you're in the right place and should complete this application. If your program is an enrollment-based or site-specific program please click here for information about the Excellence Award at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017ExcellenceAward

Why Apply for the Founder's 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 Founder's Award award, applicants must:

- Be a remote, plug-in, drop-in, wrap-around, state/national/network model, or other summer program that is NOT enrollment or site-based*;
- Serve young people between pre-kindergarten and twelfth grade over the summer months;
- Strive to accelerate academic achievement and promote healthy development as a central goal of the program;
- Have operated the 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 or Founder's 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 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:**

**Name of the Summer
Program:**

Organization website:

Organization facebook:

Organization twitter:

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

Name:

Title:

Address:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State: -- select state --

ZIP:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

4. 2017 Founder's Award: Part A

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.

If you have any difficulties please email Monica Logan, VP of Program and System Quality at the National Summer Learning Association: mlogan@summerlearning.org.

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

* 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. How is the summer program different from a traditional enrollment-based summer learning program?

[   ]

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

[   ]

* 7. Total number of youth served during summer 2016 (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. Please indicate the summer program's key partnerships in the following areas (please list the name of the organization where applicable. 700 characters per section):

CBO/Nonprofit   [   ]

Faith Based Organization [   ]

Library   [   ]

Cultural Institution   [   ]

Public Housing Program [   ]

City/Local Agency   [   ]

Other   [   ]

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

○ Yes

○ No

* 12. Does the program or model use materials and lessons that are different from the school year?

○ Yes

○ No

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

[   ]

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

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

This completes Part A of the Founder's 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.

5. 2017 Founder's 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 Monica Logan, VP of Program and Systems Quality at NSLA: mlogan@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 Monica Logan, VP of Program and Systems Quality at NSLA: mlogan@summerlearning.org.

Section 1: Purpose

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

* 16. List the program or model'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)

* 17. List the program or model'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

* 18. Describe how the program or model creates a unique culture and atmosphere that's different from the school year. Please include examples such as themes, traditions, a culminating event, unique activity space, etc. (1,800 characters)

[ ]

Section 3: Planning, Choice, and Reflection

* 19. 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."

[ ]

Section 4: Higher Order Thinking

* 20. How are youth encouraged to use their creativity, curiosity, or imagination?

[ ]

Section 5: Family Connections

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

[ ]

Section 6: Individualization

* 22. How does the program determine the social, academic, or developmental assets and needs of 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?

[ ]

Section 7: System Building

* 23. If you are applying as a summer learning system, please describe the ways in which you use a collective impact approach to coordinated summer learning opportunities in your community.

[ ]

* 24. If you are applying as a summer learning system, please describe any processes you have for data sharing, collection and analysis across summer learning stakeholders in your community. This can include summer learning data on scope, scale, access, quality, and outcomes.

| |
| |

* 25. If you are applying as a summer learning system, please describe the structure and membership of your steering body, coalition, or planning committee.

| |
| |

This completes Part B of the Founder's Award application.

6. Share your spark!

Section 8: Summer Spark!

Make the Case!

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

Program Type:

1. Drop-In programs
2. Wrap-around programs
3. Non site-specific programs (remote or plug-in programs)
4. Other non-enrollment based programs

Content:

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

26. Use this space to give an example of a specific practice that is special and unique to your program or model. (There is no character limit for this question.)

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

7. Outreach

* 28. How did you hear about the Founder's 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)

8. Consent

* 29. **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

9. Thank You!

Thank you for applying for the 2017 Founder's Award, sponsored by the New York Life Foundation. Your application is NOT complete yet until you hit the "DONE" button 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 Monica Logan, VP of Program and Systems Quality, by email: mlogan@summerlearning.org or by phone: (410) 856-1370 x 300.

Visit NSLA's website here: www.summerlearning.org

Follow NSLA on twitter: @summerlearning

Like NSLA on facebook: National Summer Learning Association