About the NSLA Summer Learning Awards

The NSLA Summer Learning Awards recognize outstanding summer programs, models, digital applications, and systems that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for young people. 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.

There are two types of Summer Learning Awards:

- Since 2005, the **New York Life Foundation Excellence in Summer Learning Award**, defined by its rigorous application and selection process, has recognized enrollment-based programs employing staff who work directly with youth.
- Established in 2015, the **New York Life Foundation Founder's Award** recognizes informal programs other non-traditional forms of summer learning innovation that are critical to serving the diverse needs of schools, families, and children.

Round 1 applications are due December 4, 2019 @ 6pm ET/3pm PT.

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.

Application Process:

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

- Round One: Complete the Round 1 online application
- Round Two: Complete the Round 2 online application and phone Interview (semi-finalists)
- Round Three: Site Visit (finalists)

Written applications are completed 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 Summer Learning Awards seeks to find and draw national attention to exemplary summer programs, models, and systems which provide and expand access to high-quality summer learning experiences for all young people.

In October, NSLA will host an interactive webinar featuring tips for your application and best practices from our 2018 winners. Please sign up for the Summer Times to stay up to date: www.summerlearning.org/newsletter-sign-up

As an award winner your program will receive…

- A monetary award of $10,000
- 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 Questions

Please answer the following questions to determine your eligibility for Summer Learning Awards.

1. Your program or organization **did not** win an award for NSLA between 2012 and 2019 (inclusive).	Yes	No
2. Your program or organization has been in operation for at least **one** summer.	Yes	No
3. Your program or organization operated during summer 2019.	Yes	No
4. Your program or organization serves young people between pre-kindergarten and twelfth grade over the summer months.	Yes	No
5. The applicant is 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.*	Yes	No
6. Your program or organization can demonstrate a strong commitment to equity and to expanding access to summer learning to underserved students in your community	Yes	No
7. Your program or organization strives to accelerate academic achievement and/or promote healthy youth development as a central goal of the program.	Yes	No

If you have any questions about your eligibility to apply for this award, please contact Leslie Gabay-Swanston at leslie@summerlearning.org.

* 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 SAVE AND ADVANCE button, 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.

Application Selection
Please select one from the following categories to help us determine which application is appropriate for your program or organization.

What best describes your program:

☐ **A. Traditional Summer Program or Camp** -- enrollment-based, multiple weeks

☐ **B. Drop-In Programs**--any program or offering that is site-based, but does not officially enroll young people

☐ **C. Wrap-Around Program**--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

☐ **D. Digital platform or application--**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

☐ **E. 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

☐ **F. Library or museum-based program**

☐ **G. Summer Learning Systems**--Communities that have developed a system-level collaborative efforts to coordinate summer learning opportunities for youth

☐ **H. Other** non-enrollment based programs

Which of the following best describes your organization type?

☐ **A. Public School**

☐ **B. Private School**

☐ **C. Overnight Camp**

☐ **D. Library**

☐ **E. Museum**

☐ **F. Nonprofit center (out-of-school / after-school program)**

☐ **G. Faith-based (church, synagogue, mosque, etc.)**

☐ **H. Other** _____

Program Activities

What were the themes or focus areas of the program? (Select all that apply)

☐ Literacy/Reading skills

☐ Sports & Recreation

☐ Visual & Performing Arts

☐ Crafts

☐ Academic Remediation/Credit Recovery

☐ Academic Enrichment

☐ Health & Wellness

☐ Social-Emotional Learning

☐ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

☐ Summer Jobs/Career Exploration

☐ College Readiness

☐ Cultural Enrichment

☐ Civic Engagement/Community Service

☐ Family & Parents Activities

☐ Services for Students with Special Needs

☐ Mentoring

☐ Financial Literacy

☐ Job/Career Readiness

☐ Other (please specify)

Contact Information

Please fill in the contact information for the summer program and lead organization/agency:

Organization or Agency:	
Name of the Summer Program:	
Name of CEO/Director	
Email Address	
Organization website:	
Organization Facebook:	
Organization twitter:	

Please fill in the contact information for the person completing this application:

Name:	
Title:	
Address:	
Address 2:	
City/Town:	
State:	
ZIP:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	

Application Instructions

- Each question should be answered in 100 words or less, unless otherwise noted.
- If a question does not apply, please type or select "Not Applicable." The groups that should respond to each question is indicated below the question.
- If you have any questions about the application, please contact Leslie Gabay-Swanston, Director of Program and Systems Quality at leslie@summerlearning.org.

1. Please describe the purpose and objective of the summer program, model, or system. (300 words)
   {ALL Groups}

2. Please describe population served and the need for the program. (300 words)

   {ALL Groups}

3. What year did your **summer program** start? (not organization)

   {ALL Groups}

4. Number of youth served during **summer 2019**.

   {ALL Groups}

5. Grades served. 'Rising' refers to the grade youth will enter in the fall. (Select all that apply)

☐ Preschool (Ages 0 - 4 years)

☐ Rising Kindergarten

☐ Rising 1st

☐ Rising 2nd

☐ Rising 3rd

☐ Rising 4th

☐ Rising 5th

☐ Rising 6th

☐ Rising 7th

☐ Rising 8th

☐ Rising 9th

☐ Rising 10th

☐ Rising 11th

☐ Rising 12th

☐ Transition to College

☐ Other (please specify)

{ALL groups}

6. Geographic location of the summer program: (choose all that apply)

☐ Urban

☐ Rural

☐ Suburban

☐ Not applicable

{ALL groups}

7. Percent 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
{ALL groups}

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

○ Yes

○ No

○ Not applicable

{ALL groups}

9. Is this program connected to or a continuation of a school year or afterschool program?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Not applicable

10. Does the program use materials and lessons that are different from the school year?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Not applicable

{ALL groups}

11. Program Staff

Number of paid staff _____
Number of certified teachers' _____
Number of volunteer staff _____

{ALL groups}

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

13. What is the makeup of your summer budget? Please check all that apply.

□ Title I
□ Title III
□ 21st Century Community Learning Centers
□ USDA Summer Food Service Reimbursement
□ Other Federal funds
□ State Education Agency Budget
□ Migrant Education
□ ASES (After School Education & Safety Program)
□ Other state funds

□ School District
□ Mayor's Office
□ Municipal Funding
□ Other Local/City/Municipal Funds
□ Program Fees
□ Private Foundations
□ Individual Giving
□ Subsidized Child Care
□ Vouchers
□ Other (specify)
□ Not Applicable

14. Describe your summer program goals. ().

15. Describe of how you evaluate or plan to evaluate the quality of your program and steps you take to improve. (300 words)

16. Describe how you create a unique culture and atmosphere that is different from the school year. Please include examples such as themes, a unique youth product, or activity. (300 words).

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

18. Describe the way the program or model communicates and engages with families and communities.

19. 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.

{G only}

20. Use this space to give an example of a specific practice, activity, approach, or program element that makes summer special or unique for young people. (200 words)

{ALL groups}

21. Upload a photo or video of your program or model, if you have a YouTube or Vimeo please provide the web link

{ALL groups}

22. If applicable please provide the following
Website:
Twitter:
Facebook URL:
Instagram:

23. How did you hear about the Summer Learning Awards?

☐ NSLA Email

☐ NSLA website

☐ Lands' End website or email

☐ New York Life Foundation website or email

☐ Email from colleague/friend

☐ Other organization calendar/website

☐ At a training or webinar hosted by NSLA

☐ Social media

☐ I am a previous applicant

☐ Other (please specify)

{ALL groups}

24. **I certify that the information submitted in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

I further understand that any false statements may result in denial or revocation of the award.

Name	
Email Address	
Date	

{ALL groups}

25. **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), New York Life Foundation, and Lands' End 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 and photo 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, New York Life Foundation, and Lands' End.

Name	
Email Address	
Date	

{ALL groups}

Thank You!
Thank you for applying for the 2020 Summer Learning Awards. Your application is NOT complete yet until you hit the "Submit" button below.

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

If you are not ready to submit your application, please click the SAVE & LOGOUT button above. You can log back in at app.reviewr.com with your username and password you created to edit or change your application until the submission deadline.

If you have any questions, you can reach Leslie Gabay-Swanston, Director of Program and Systems Quality by email: leslie@summerlearning.org

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

Follow NSLA on twitter: @summerlearning

Like NSLA on Facebook: National Summer Learning Association