

[About the Summer Learning Awards](#)

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 January 15, 2021 @ 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, Recognition and Benefits, Eligibility Requirements

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.

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 prize 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 2013 and 2020 (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 2020 or 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. Public Housing**
- I. 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: | |
| First Name | |
| Last Name | |

Are you the CEO/Director of this program? Yes No

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Address: | |
| Address 2: | |
| City/Town: | |
| State: | |
| ZIP: | |
| Email Address: | |
| Phone Number: | |
| Organization Website | |
| Organization Facebook | |
| Organization Twitter | |

Application Instructions

- Each question should be answered in 150 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.

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1. Please describe your summer program, model, or system. (300 words). How many days/weeks do you operate? What does a typical program day look like?)

{ALL Groups}

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

{ALL Groups}

Demographics

3. Number of youth served during summer 2020.

{ALL Groups}

4. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) rate. To determine your ADA rate divide the total student attendance by the total days of programming. Please write as a whole number. For example, if you had a total of 5 days of programming and your attendance looked like this:

- Day 1: 35 youth
- Day 2: 40 youth
- Day 3: 45 youth
- Day 4: 45 youth
- Day 5: 38 youth

Your ADA would be $(35+40+45+45+38)/5= 40.6$ --> enter 41.

{ALL Groups}

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

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool (Ages 0 - 4 years) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 4th | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 10th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rising Kindergarten | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 5th | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 11th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 1st | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 6th | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 12th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 2nd | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 7th | <input type="checkbox"/> Transition to College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 3rd | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 8th | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising 9th | |

{ALL groups}

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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. Total number of sites you operated during summer 2020 (please enter a whole number only):

{ALL groups}

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

{ALL groups}

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

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

{ALL groups}

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

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

{ALL groups}

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

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

{ALL groups}

13. Program Staff

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

{ALL groups}

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

{ALL groups}

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title I | <input type="checkbox"/> School District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title III | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21st Century Community Learning Centers | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Funding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA Summer Food Service Reimbursement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Local/City/Municipal Funds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Federal funds | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Education Agency Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Foundations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Giving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASES (After School Education & Safety Program) | <input type="checkbox"/> Subsidized Child Care Vouchers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other state funds | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

{ALL groups}

Evaluation

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

{ALL groups}

17. Please describe any key findings, outcomes, and/or results in these areas for summer 2020 and how you gathered this information (i.e. anecdotal--staff reflections, teacher comments; formal--validated assessments or surveys; school/district data). Enter 'NOT APPLICABLE' if no key findings, outcomes, and/or results are available for summer 2020. (300 words)

Academic:

Developmental and/or Social-Emotional:

Other:

{ALL groups}

Unique Program Culture

18. 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).

{ALL groups}

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

{ALL groups}

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

{ALL except G}

Staffing

21. Please describe the training or professional development supports you provide to your staff. Does the program have a set process for staff observations and feedback during the summer?

{ALL groups}

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Systems

22. 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.

{Only G}

Program Story

23. Please provide a short story or anecdote about how your program has impacted the life of a youth participant or family. Your example should reflect an inspirational, breakthrough, or teaching moment that happened during summer 2020. Feel free to share something that reflects a program value, an unexpected outcome, or progress made toward a goal.

{ALL groups}

24. Upload a photo or video of your program or model, if you have a Youtube or Vimeo please provide the web link (4 uploads max)

NSLA is collecting additional information from programs to build our best practices in summer learning database that will highlight excellent programs across the country. NSLA will also use this information to help promote the Excellence Award and to report to the New York Life Foundation. Providing this information is optional and will not affect your application.

25. What curriculum do you use in the summer? Please include online links if applicable.

{ALL groups}

26. 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 | |
| Date | |

{ALL groups}