



2026 Application Judge Rubric

Please read the following criteria carefully before beginning to rank your applications. Contact our Young Humanitarian Award Director if you are not sure you understand the criteria specified. Our overall recipient must exemplify these qualities; this is the kind of person we are looking for to be Utah's Young Humanitarian.

For the purpose of this award, service is defined as unpaid volunteer efforts which contribute to the well being of needy individuals or communities. Such service is motivated primarily by selfless intent and desire to help others. Though there is value in brief service efforts with many different needy populations, sustained and focused service efforts will be considered more meaningful. Utah's Young Humanitarians are service leaders who undertake successful projects, while collaborating and working with others to achieve meaningful results.

In the spirit of this scholarship, we believe that the most impactful community service is built on collaboration and partnership. While many are drawn to the idea of creating new programs or nonprofits, some of the most meaningful contributions come from supporting and strengthening existing efforts. True leadership often lies in recognizing the value of established organizations and lending your skills, time, and resources to amplify their impact. By working alongside others, we can achieve lasting change and foster deeper connections within our communities. This scholarship celebrates students who have excelled in service by partnering with worthy causes, demonstrating that leadership is not always about starting something new, but about joining hands with others to make a difference.

1. Focused service:
 - It's fine to have been involved in lots of service activities. However, we want to see that the applicant has spent enough time in one area of service to have really made a difference.
2. Strong leadership skills:
 - It's great to be a team player and important to help others reach their goals. We want to see that the applicant has also led others in service, and done so effectively.
3. Consistent service over a period of time:
 - The best candidates are not new to service, but have demonstrated a consistent commitment to service over the course of their young lives.
4. Hands-on Service
 - It's good to orchestrate a project from afar, but a humanitarian works easily and directly with those in need. Hands-on service allows individuals to connect directly with those they are helping, fostering empathy and a deeper understanding of community needs. Applicants should demonstrate hands-on service.
5. Selfless and self-driven service:
 - Of course, parents, teachers, and other mentors will encourage a young person to volunteer. But there must be evidence that this applicant has become self-motivated to help others.
 - While service mandated through a religious or school organization, or service done for a resume can still be valuable, we want to see the candidate has taken independent action to serve.
6. Collaborates with others:
 - There must be evidence that this individual has successfully involved others in service, inspiring others to volunteer alongside him or her. We believe that the most impactful community service is built on collaboration and partnership. This collaboration should be evident in each application.

7. Local community impact:

- Many of our candidates have international service experience. Although that is noteworthy, this Award is for Utah's Young Humanitarian, so local service **MUST** be a central focus in the application.

Ambassador:

The Award winners, especially the top high school and top college winners, will serve as local service ambassadors for one year, representing Youthline's values of service. As part of this ambassadorship, recipients will attend at least three engagements arranged by the Young Humanitarian Award Director, where they will share their experiences, inspire others, and promote Youthline's mission of creating lifetime humanitarians. They will act as representatives for Youthline and the scholarship program, helping to spread awareness about the impact of sustained, meaningful service, and encouraging others to participate in community-focused efforts.

Ranking process:

This process will take 10-15 hours of your time. Please plan accordingly. We want every application to be thoroughly read and critiqued. Rankings are due on Friday, March 14th by midnight.

Holding the above criteria in your mind, read each application entirely, while making notes as the above criteria are evidenced.

Each applicant was asked to provide a service resume, two letters of recommendation and short essays to two questions. The essay questions were:

1. Service often requires working alongside others to achieve a meaningful goal. Describe a time when you collaborated with an existing organization, team, or community group. What role did you play, and how did your involvement help amplify the impact of this organization or initiative?
2. Effective service requires listening, humility, and respect for the community being served. Describe a time when your understanding of service changed because of feedback, observation, or learning from others. How did this experience influence your ideas about responsibility, power, or your role within a community? How would you approach a similar situation differently in the future?

Fill out the ranking sheet for each applicant after you have read the complete application, but please use a pencil or type out your rankings as you judge. As you move through the applications, your ranking might change for previous applicants based on the comparisons you are forming.

You be the judge as to whether the quality of writing in the essays impacts your overall scores. We do want the individual to be articulate in expressing their commitment to service, but this quality will continue to be judged in the interviews. This Award recognizes service, not Grade Point Average (GPA).

While focusing on the criteria above, please compare overall impressions of the candidate as you rank. We want you to take ownership in judging.

Above score, the order in which you rank your applicants is most important.

ONLY the positive and constructive feedback below the ranking chart will be shared with the applicants.
 Judge each application using the following rubric. Scores range from 1-10. **10 is the highest.**

Applicant's Name:

	WEAK		FAIR		GOOD			EXCELLEN T		IMPRESSIVE
NUMERICAL RANKING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Focused Service										
Leadership Skills										
Consistent service										
Hands-on service										
Self-less and self-driven service										
Collaboration with others										
Impact on their community										

Applicant's total numerical score: _____

Please provide positive and constructive feedback below. Your remarks will be shared with the applicant.

I was impressed by...	In order to have a higher ranking, the applicant would have needed to...

Please provide at least one meaningful quote from the applicant to be used to inspire other young humanitarians: