



Champions for Change

At the Center for Native American Youth

Native Youth Application Form

The Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute, created by former US Senator Byron Dorgan with \$1 million from his excess campaign funds, is dedicated to improving the lives of Native American youth. The Center is aimed at bringing greater national attention to the issues facing Native youth through communication, policy development and advocacy. To shine a spotlight on inspirational stories and promote hope in Indian Country, the Center invites you to get involved in our newest program - **Champions for Change**.

In this packet you will find a short description of the Champions for Change program and the application process. For more details and up-to-date information on the program, please visit the Center's Champions for Change webpage or visit http://cnay.org/Champions_for_Change.html

What is Champions for Change?

The Center is committed to traveling to tribal and urban Indian communities to listen to and learn from young Native Americans about youth priorities, challenges and successes. We – Senator Dorgan and the Center for Native American Youth – hear from and about truly inspirational Native youth who are taking the lead in tackling community challenges and working with peers to improve the lives of Native Americans across the country. The Center is ready to recognize and encourage these youth-led efforts!

“Native youth want to be encouraged for the good work we’re doing!”
- Center Roundtable participant; Denver, CO

The Champions for Change (CFC) program, a spinoff of a White House Initiative, recognizes and encourages inspirational Native American youth (ages 14 to 24) working in their tribal or urban Indian communities to promote hope and make a positive impact. Champions can include individuals who initiate programs, events, or other efforts to improve the lives of fellow Native youth and Indian Country as a whole.

I am interested in Champions for Change. Now what?

We want to hear from you! The Center is calling for young Native Americans across Indian Country to submit their stories of leadership and service in tribal and urban Indian communities, schools, and programs across the country. **These stories will be collected and reviewed by the Center and five finalists will be selected and recognized at an event in early 2013 in Washington, DC.** The Center invites you to get creative – story submissions can be in a

written or video form. Please review the submission categories to determine where your story of service and inspiration belongs:

- Health and Wellness, including Youth Suicide Prevention and Substance and Alcohol Abuse Prevention;
- Education, Mentorship or Afterschool Programs;
- Sports, Nutrition or *Let's Move! in Indian Country*;
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention;
- Building Healthy Relationships and Peer Relationships;
- Cultural Preservation and Native Languages;
- Anti-Bullying and Personal Empowerment;
- Self-Expression through Arts and Crafts;
- Emerging Leadership in Government Service; and
- Economic and Community Development.

How do I apply?

The Champions for Change is looking for young Native Americans ages 14 – 24 to apply for this program. Visit the Center's Champions for Change webpage (http://cnay.org/Champions_for_Change.html) to download the full application or fill out forms online. You can also contact the Center's program associate at Josie.raphaelito@aspeninstitute.org to request more information or ask for assistance.

Complete applications include: application form; three letters of recommendation (two adult forms & a peer form); and responses to Champions for Change questions in essay or video form.

Application materials will be evaluated by the Center's review committee comprised of Center board members, tribal leaders, and federal agency and administration officials.

Application Deadline: January 31, 2013

What happens if I am selected as a finalist?

Finalists will be notified and announced by the Center for Native American Youth in February 2013. The five Champions for Change finalists will be recognized by the Center in the following ways:

- Certificate of Recognition and plaque;
- All-expense-paid trip with a chaperone to Washington, DC for the national recognition event in early 2013;
- Opportunity to participate in a mentor pairing coordinated by the Center;
- **Invitation to serve a two-year term on a newly created Youth Advisory Board** for the Center; and
- **Eligible for consideration for a future visit from a member of the Center's board of advisors** to their home community to share more about their initiative for change.

What happens if I'm not selected as a finalist?

The Center still wants you engaged in our work! Everyone's story is important and the Center commends participants for having the courage to share their message with our team. Participants who are not selected as finalists will benefit from the experience in the following ways:

- Video submissions can be shared on the [Center's YouTube Channel](#);
- Stories can be uploaded on the Center's [Stories of Inspiration](#) page;
- Youth will be invited to sign up for the Center's [Native Youth Listserv](#) and [E-Newsletter](#) for additional opportunities;
- Submission stories will share information with the Center about a program making an impact in the lives of Native youth to possibly be featured as a Center [Highlight Program](#); and
- Youth will receive a resource packet of other Native youth leadership opportunities - United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY), National Congress of American Indians Youth Commission, National Indian Health Board Youth Advisory Council, National Native American AIDS Prevention Center Youth Council, and more.

Champions for Change

Center for Native American Youth

Application Timeline:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| January 31, 2013: | Champions for Change application deadline |
| February 2013: | Center for Native American Youth announces five finalists |

Application Instructions:

In order for your application to be reviewed by the Center's team, **you must submit a signed and completed application form, an essay or video describing your work to promote positive change, and completed recommendation forms (2 adult and 1 peer recommendation)**. You can submit materials online by visiting [http://cnay.org/Champions for Change.html](http://cnay.org/Champions_for_Change.html). You can also email, fax, or mail all forms in one packet to:

Center for Native American Youth
Attn: Josie Raphaelito, Program Associate
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
josie.raaphaelito@aspeninstitute.org
Fax: (202) 293-0525

Application Deadline: January 31, 2013

Champions for Change Center for Native American Youth

Application Form

Personal Information

Name:	
Age:	Tribal Affiliation:
Gender:	Grade Level (High School/College/Other):
Home Address:	
Permanent Telephone Number:	
E-mail Address:	

Champions for Change Category

Please select from one of the following categories:

- Health and Wellness, including Youth Suicide Prevention and Substance and Alcohol Abuse Prevention;
- Education, Mentorship or Afterschool Programs;
- Sports, Nutrition or *Let's Move! in Indian Country*;
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention;
- Building Healthy Relationships and Peer Relationships;
- Cultural Preservation and Native Languages;
- Anti-Bullying and Personal Empowerment;
- Self-Expression through Arts and Crafts;
- Emerging Leadership in Government Service; and
- Economic and Community Development.
- Other

Champions for Change Submission Category:

Name of Youth-Led Initiative:

Additional Contact Information

High School Address:	College/University Address:
Other:	

I certify that all of the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Champions for Change
Center for Native American Youth
Essay/Video Form

Student Essay/Video Form

We want to hear from Native American Youth to learn about how you are working to overcome the challenges facing your communities. Please respond to the essay questions listed below or submit a video no longer than 5 minutes. **Each essay response should be between 250 and 500 words.**

1. What challenge do you see facing youth in your community?
2. Describe your leadership initiative. What have you done to help solve the issue in question number one?
3. How many people have been involved or affected with your leadership initiative described in question number two?
4. Describe examples of how your initiative has been successful.
5. What challenges or barriers did you face and overcome to make your initiative happen?

Please share more about the student’s characteristics listed below by placing an ‘x’ in the appropriate column below:

Category	Outstand- ing	Good	Average	Below Average	Unable to Assess
Commitment: joins groups, councils, teams and sees the position or project through the end.					
Persistent: stays with tasks, integration toward long-term goals.					
Self-Starter: highly motivated, independent worker, self-directed, pursues individual interests.					
Desire to Achieve: is eager to successfully accomplish goals.					
Community Engagement: Works with community leaders and engages Native youth to support his or her work.					
Respect: Takes responsibility for actions and shows respect for teachers and peers.					
Leadership: Shows maturity/emotional ability, leads when needed or appropriate.					

Overall Rating (circle one) –

- Recommend, Strongly
- Recommend
- Recommend with reservations (explain any reservations below):

Comments:

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Champions for Change
Center for Native American Youth
Adult Recommendation #2

Recommender can be a counselor, mentor, teacher, advisor or coach.

Recommender Name:	Who are you recommending?
Work Affiliation:	Title/Position:
Address:	
Telephone Number:	Relationship to applicant:
Email Address:	Known youth applicant how long (years):

Questions regarding youth applicant:

4. Please tell us why you are recommending this young person for the Center's Champions for Change program.

5. What are the first two words that come to mind to describe the applicant?

6. How do you think this young person will continue to make an impact in the community?

Please share more about the student’s characteristics listed below by placing an ‘x’ in the appropriate column below:

Category	Outstand- ing	Good	Average	Below Average	Unable to Assess
Commitment: joins groups, councils, teams and sees the position or project through the end.					
Persistent: stays with tasks, integration toward long-term goals.					
Self-Starter: highly motivated, independent worker, self-directed, pursues individual interests.					
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Overall Rating (circle one) –

- Recommend, Strongly
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- Recommend with reservations (explain any reservations below):

Comments:

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8. As a peer, how do you think this young person will continue to make an impact in the community?

Overall Rating (circle one) –

- Recommend, Strongly
- Recommend
- Recommend with reservations (explain any reservations below):

Additional Comments:

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