BENEFITS

- The Congressional Award is a non-competitive, voluntary program that is open to all young people age 14 to 23.

- The program is well – balanced, containing four diverse program areas that encourage youth to explore new areas of their choosing and learn more about themselves and the world around them.

- Six levels of the Award provide tangible evidence of success and effort on the part of the young person, and many youth use their record of achievement in their college, scholarship, or job applications.

- Attracts both youth and adults of all demographics. An effective youth program attracts a large number of volunteers who derive great satisfaction from sharing their enthusiasm, experience and skills. This program can bridge many gaps – age, socioeconomic, race & religion.

- Provides an opportunity for young people to learn from adults who will encourage and support them along the way to earning a Congressional Award.

- Encourages the establishment of community networks and links. Enables disadvantaged youth to become a part of the community.

- The Award empowers young people to take a greater responsibility for their own lives, to discover new talents, to advocate on behalf of others, and to take positive action in the community.

- The Congressional Award program dovetails nicely with extra-curricular activities in schools, and various youth programs including Key Club, Service Clubs, Scouting, 4-H, HOBY, Close-up, etc. The Award can act as a value-added component for the personal development of young people.

- The program establishes a sense of self-confidence, and helps to enhance problem-solving skills and the ability to work as part of a team – traits that are valued by employers and institutions of higher education.

- The Award scheme promotes volunteerism. Young adults who wish to respond to President Bush’s appeal for increased volunteerism may do so by participating in the Congressional Award program.

- The Congressional Award program may help to encourage America’s youth to lead a healthier lifestyle - by pursuing goals and activities in the areas of Physical Activity, Health, and Nutrition.

- The Congressional Award program is fun!