



IMPACT REPORT

THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD CONGRESS' AWARD FOR YOUTH

LEADERSHIP LETTER

“The critical bedrock for a successful youth program is only formed when community members join together.”

Paxton K. Baker

It has been nearly 40 years since Public Law 96-114, The Congressional Award Act, was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter. As a result of this program, over 8.5 million hours of public service have been contributed to communities nationwide.

As we celebrate a monumental milestone this year of bestowing over 440 Congressional Award Gold Medals for the first time since our inception, it's important to take a moment to recognize every supporter who has been instrumental to the success of the program. We extend our deep appreciation to every parent, advisor, mentor, member of Congress, sponsor, and teacher who has worked to create positive change for each and every participant.

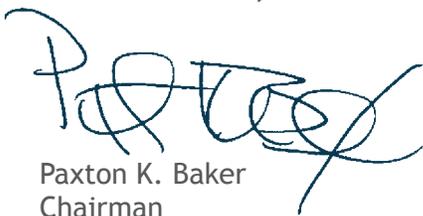
In addition to our Gold Medalists, over 4,600 Congressional Awards have been earned at the lower levels throughout the year. To keep pace with our growing number of awardees, the Foundation has widened its presence in states such as Arkansas, New York, North Carolina, and Texas, to host award presentations. These state and local ceremonies continue to expand into areas of rapid program growth and we're encouraged to see increased support by our regional partners, schools, and sponsors.

With this swift growth, The Congressional Award Foundation has strived to improve and enhance the program to better serve as a resource that members of the House and Senate may utilize to recognize and challenge their young constituents.

In our effort to better prepare this next generation of leaders, the Foundation has worked to develop new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) initiatives this year, aiming to stoke passion for science and math and making STEM projects more accessible to youth. Through partnerships with the private sector, the Foundation is creating tailored opportunities for young people that can open new doors in the areas of agriculture, finance, health and wellness, and environmental conservation.

We hope you will enjoy learning about some of our participants to get a better idea of the impact this program truly has in the life of a young person. As the only charity of the United States Congress, we continue to rely on our partners and supporters to deliver this unique and worthwhile congressional program to youth across the country.

Yours in service,



Paxton K. Baker
Chairman



Erica W. Heyse
National Director

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ABOUT US

The United States Congress established The Congressional Award Foundation on November 16, 1979 to recognize initiative, service, and achievement in young people.

It began as a bipartisan effort in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. The original bill was sponsored by Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and Congressman James Howard of New Jersey. The enabling legislation, Public Law 96-114 - The Congressional Award Act, established the Foundation as a private-public partnership, which receives all funding from the private sector. The legislation was originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter and each succeeding President of the United States has continued the legislation.

Today, The Congressional Award Foundation remains Congress' only charity and the highest honor a member of the House or Senate may bestow upon a youth civilian. The program is non-partisan, voluntary, and non-competitive. Young people may register when they turn 13 1/2 years old and must complete their activities by their 24th birthday.

Participants earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Congressional Award Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration.

Earning The Congressional Award is an exciting and enriching way to get involved in local communities. This is not an award for past accomplishments. Instead, youth are honored for setting personally challenging goals and meeting needs in their community.

The Congressional Award is the most comprehensive and flexible of its kind. There is no minimum grade point average requirement, it accommodates young people with special needs or disabilities, and participants complete their activities at their own pace.

The Congressional Award Foundation conducts an independent audit each fiscal year. Financial statements are available by request.





THE PROGRAM

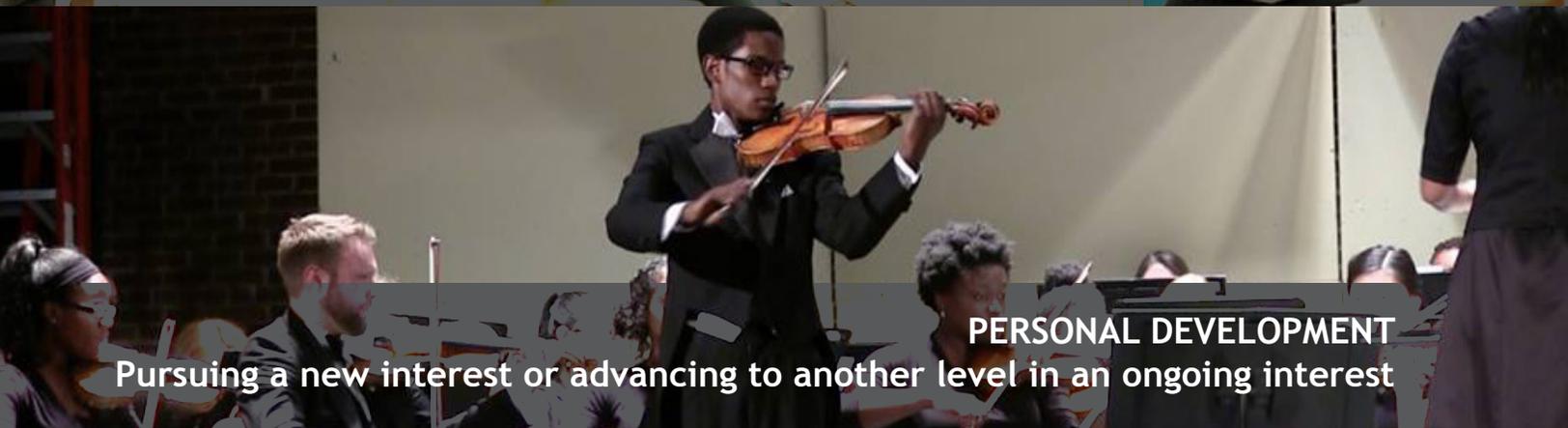
PROGRAM AREAS

Participants earn Bronze, Silver, Gold Certificates and Bronze, Silver, Gold Medals by setting personally challenging goals in four key program areas.



VOLUNTARY PUBLIC SERVICE

Sharing time and talents for the benefit of others



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Pursuing a new interest or advancing to another level in an ongoing interest



PHYSICAL FITNESS

Improving one's quality of life



EXPEDITION / EXPLORATION

Immersion in an unfamiliar environment or culture

2017-18: A YEAR IN REVIEW



4,663 AWARDS EARNED

Bronze Certificate: 719 | Silver Certificate: 691 | Gold Certificate: 627
Bronze Medal: 1,652 | Silver Medal: 603 | Gold Medal: 398

**1.1 MILLION
SERVICE HOURS**



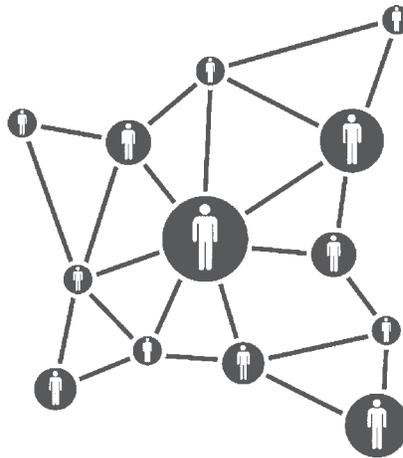
**4,000+
SCHOOLS ENGAGED**



**43,654
PARTICIPANTS**
*Representing every
state + territory*



**15,000+
ADULT MENTORS**



5,202

NEW REGISTRATIONS

*An 8% increase from the
previous year*

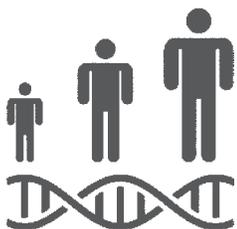


**2,368
MILITARY YOUTH**

*Affiliated with the armed forces,
academies, or military programs.*



**375,944
FITNESS HOURS**



18 AVERAGE AGE

Junior High: 3.6% | High School: 35.3%
College: 40.7% | Post Graduate: 20.4%

6,690 
EXPLORATION



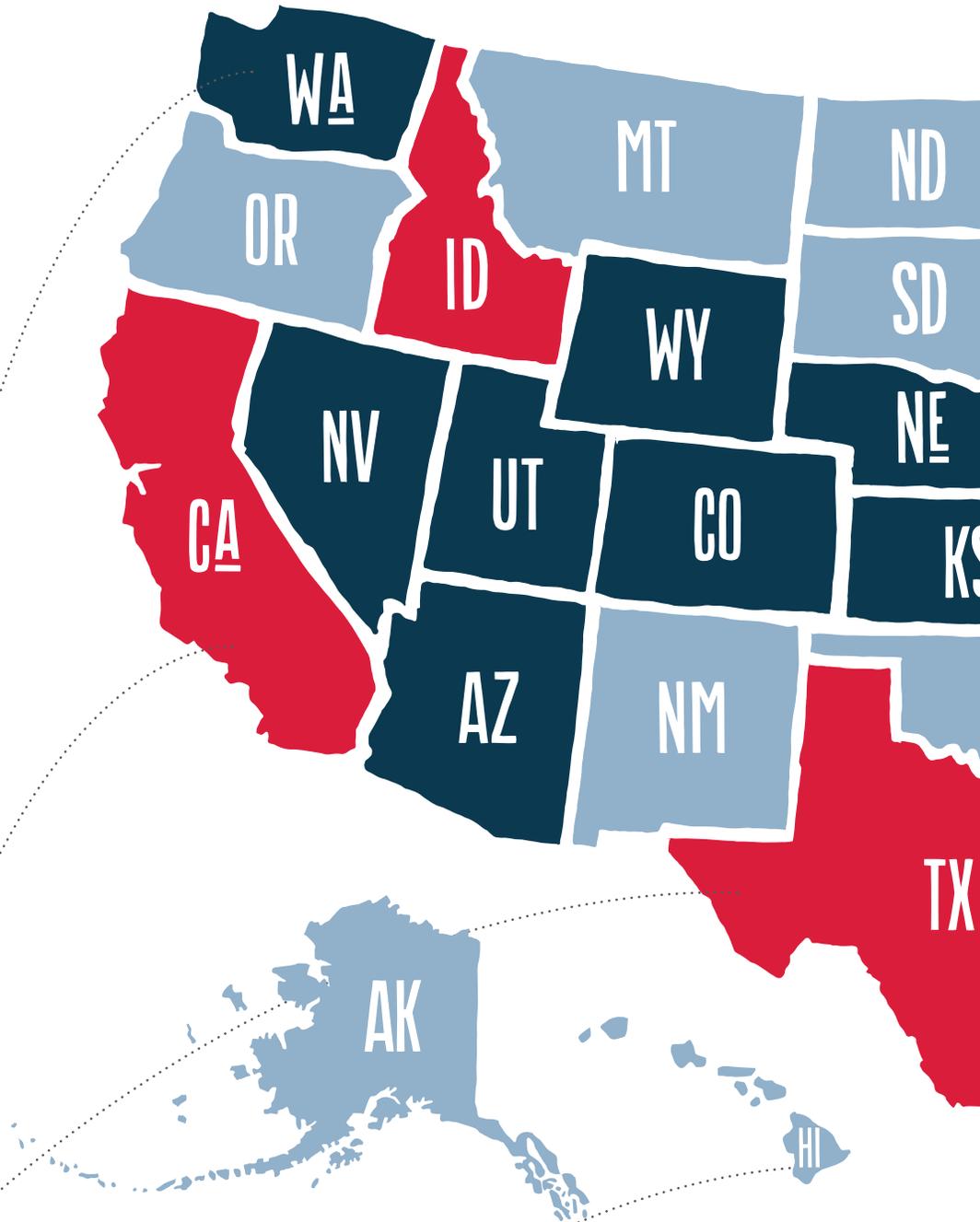
**815,803
DEVELOPMENT
HOURS**



54% FEMALE / 46% MALE

OUR REACH

Through The Congressional Award, Congress challenges youth in every state and congressional district to take action in developing their community and their own future. The program aims to build character and foster citizenship. Any young person ages 13 ½ -23 is eligible for the program, regardless of ability or circumstance.



Representative Dan Newhouse, WA-04



House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, CA-12



Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson, TX-30



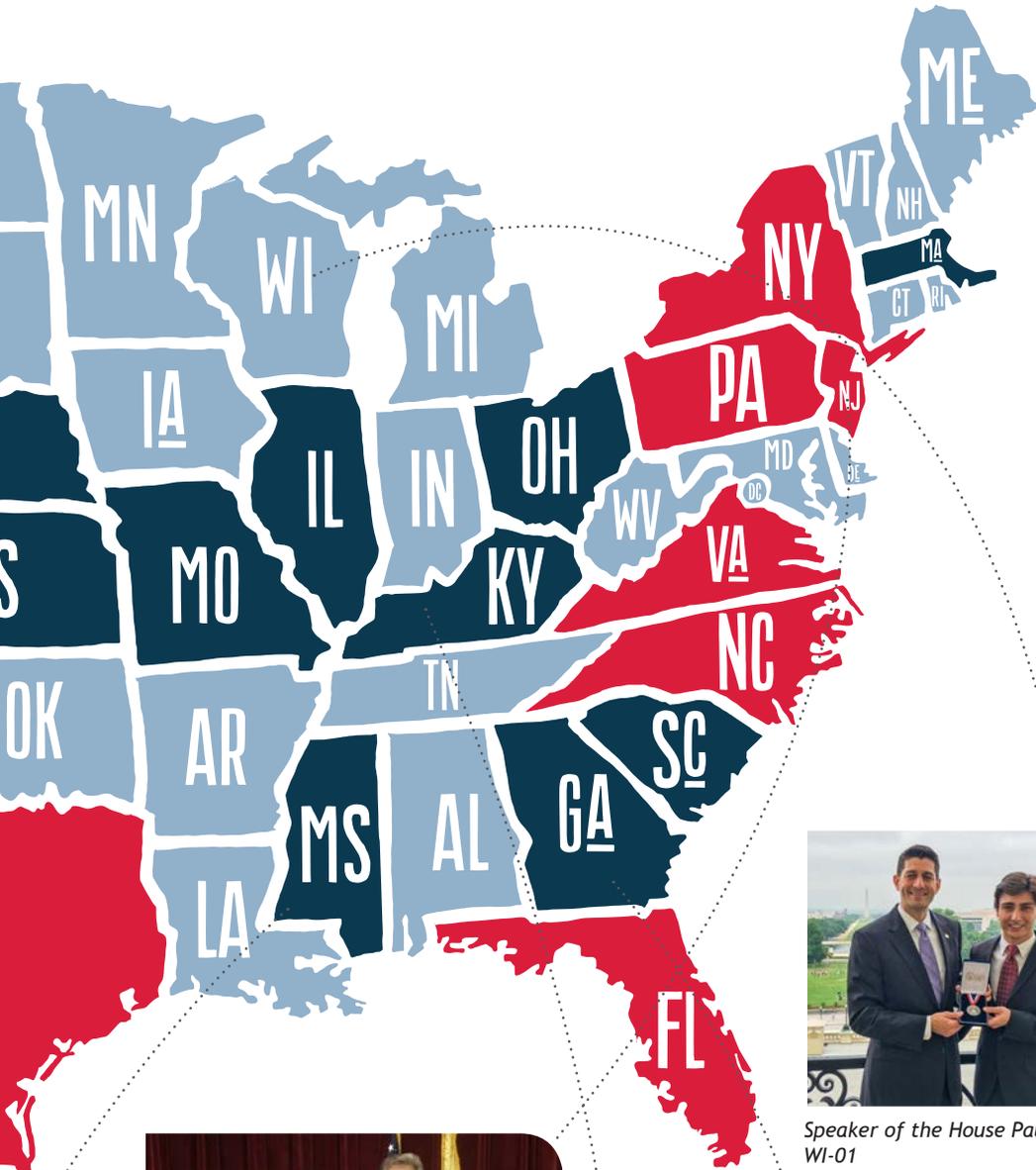
Representative Tulsi Gabbard, HI-02



Representative Lacy Clay, MO-01



Senator Roger Wicker, MS



| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Alabama | 217 |
| Alaska | 49 |
| Arizona | 991 |
| Arkansas | 300 |
| California | 7,187 |
| Colorado | 659 |
| Connecticut | 410 |
| Delaware | 48 |
| Florida | 3,246 |
| Georgia | 857 |
| Hawaii | 95 |
| Idaho | 1,178 |
| Illinois | 774 |
| Indiana | 414 |
| Iowa | 168 |
| Kansas | 568 |
| Kentucky | 836 |
| Louisiana | 122 |
| Maine | 107 |
| Maryland | 1,157 |
| Massachusetts | 809 |
| Michigan | 459 |
| Minnesota | 329 |
| Mississippi | 832 |
| Missouri | 891 |
| Montana | 51 |
| Nebraska | 382 |
| Nevada | 525 |
| New Hampshire | 136 |
| New Jersey | 2,493 |
| New Mexico | 108 |
| New York | 2,125 |
| North Carolina | 1,787 |
| North Dakota | 24 |
| Ohio | 789 |
| Oklahoma | 289 |
| Oregon | 308 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,708 |
| Rhode Island | 82 |
| South Carolina | 675 |
| South Dakota | 36 |
| Tennessee | 319 |
| Texas | 4,202 |
| Utah | 776 |
| Vermont | 67 |
| Virginia | 1,805 |
| Washington | 659 |
| Washington, DC | 67 |
| West Virginia | 75 |
| Wisconsin | 313 |
| Wyoming | 936 |
| American Samoa | 0 |
| Armed Forces Abroad | 98 |
| Guam | 94 |
| Northern Mariana Islands | 0 |
| Puerto Rico | 18 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | 4 |



Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, WI-01



Representative Frank Pallone, NJ-06



Representative John Lewis, GA-05



Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, KY



TOTAL 43,654

QUOTABLE

“Service is an incredibly powerful force - for our nation, for our communities, and for each of us individually. The Congressional Award recognizes young people who have shown exceptional dedication to serving others and making a difference in their communities.”

—Senator Chris Coons, Delaware

“I believe there is no better cause to bring us all together than a celebration of our state’s youth and their incredible achievements.”

—Representative
Richard Hudson, NC-08

“The Congressional Award offers the next level of motivation, which could have profound impacts on your community, your family, and yourself.”

—Alexander Peterson,
Washington Bronze Medalist

“Without this program, I never would have realized that my passion for the STEM field and a love for helping others could be combined into one.”

—Emily Mosley, Oregon Participant

“So many young people in our community are doing great things, giving us reassurance that the leaders of tomorrow will be able to overcome the challenges our country faces.”

—Representative Jan Schakowsky, IL-09

“The Congressional Award stimulates civic engagement, and that is a virtue our nation will always need.”

—Representative
Debbie Dingell, MI-12

“Thank you to The Congressional Award for helping to foster a vibrant civil community eager to serve their community.”

—Senator John Cornyn, Texas

“I now understand the difference between a goal and a dream. Setting measurable and obtainable short term objectives will lead to long term success.”

—Peter Coiley, Virginia Silver Medalist



EVENTS



Representative Joe Kennedy, MA-04



Representative Pete Olson, TX-22

GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

Each June, Congress celebrates the hundreds of youth from across the nation who have earned The Congressional Award Gold Medal, the pinnacle of the program.

Gold Medalists and their families are invited to Capitol Hill for a once in a lifetime recognition of their accomplishments. Members of Congress present the awards to their constituents at a distinguished ceremony, attended by corporate and civic leaders, media, and peers.

These young people are truly America's most deserving youth, having dedicated hundreds of hours and at least two years to community service and personal goal-setting.

Just over 5,200 Gold Medals have been awarded since the program's founding in 1979.



Senator Tim Scott, SC





Representative Barry Loudermilk, GA-11 & Senator David Perdue, GA



Representative Jan Schakowsky, IL-09



National Baseball Hall of Famer
Cal Ripken, Jr.





Congressional Award Vice-Chairman Rodney Slater, National Director Erica Heyse, and Golf Classic Chairman David Falk present NFL Hall of Famer Chris Doleman with the Horizon Award.



NBA Legend Dikembe Mutombo

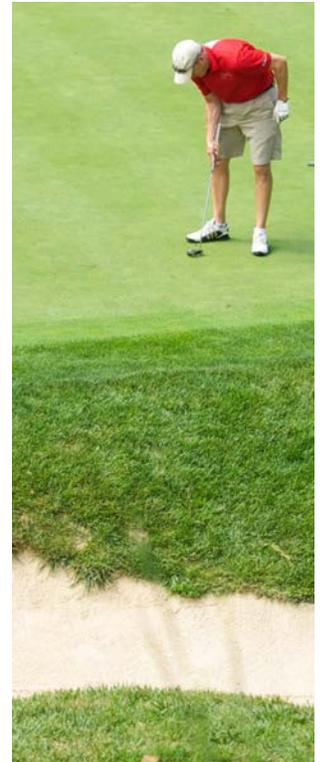


GOLF CLASSIC

Now in its 24th year, this annual tournament brings together current and former Members of Congress, as well as prominent guests like professional athletes and business and civic leaders, to raise vital funds and awareness for the Foundation.

The Golf Classic tees off at the beautiful TPC Potomac Golf Course at Avenel Farm, in Potomac, Maryland. Recently redesigned by golf's most elite architects, the course is among those of the PGA Tour's acclaimed TPC Network of clubs.

Special guests have included Pro Football Hall of Famers Emmitt Smith and Chris Doleman, NBA stars Patrick Ewing, Alonzo Mourning, Dikembe Mutombo, Jeff Green, and MLB pitching legend Roger Clemens.



NFL all-time leading rusher Emmitt Smith and wife Pat Smith, with Team 22

Representative Steve Pearce, NM-02



Representative Tom Graves, GA-14 at the final table.



CHARITY POKER TOURNAMENT

This annual tournament welcomes poker enthusiasts across the spectrum including former and current Members of Congress, Chiefs of Staff, poker pros, and corporate partners for an evening of bluffs and blinds, all in the name of charity.

The event also features a reception and spectator option for those who may not be inclined to showcase their Texas Hold 'Em skills.



Professional poker player Dennis Phillips and Tournament Chairman Representative Billy Long, MO-07



Representative Bobby Scott, VA-03



Representative Joseph Crowley, NY-14



Representative Brian Mast, FL-18



REGIONAL & STATE CEREMONIES

Designed to elevate visibility of the program in a particular state or geographic area, both regional and statewide award ceremonies are held on a rotating basis each year.

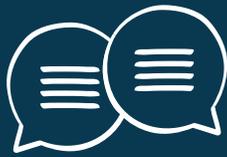
State partnerships are forged when members of the congressional delegation and corporate partners with a footprint in a state come together to strengthen the program and support local youth.



Senator Cory Booker, NJ



Representatives Alma Adams, NC-12 and Richard Hudson, NC-08



OUR STORIES

EFFORT BRINGS REWARD

Soleil Gaylord

Telluride, Colorado
Bronze Medalist

Soleil Gaylord is a high school senior that recently earned The Congressional Award Bronze Medal for her goal-setting and community service.

Long story short, Soleil has been running up mountains since she was five years old.

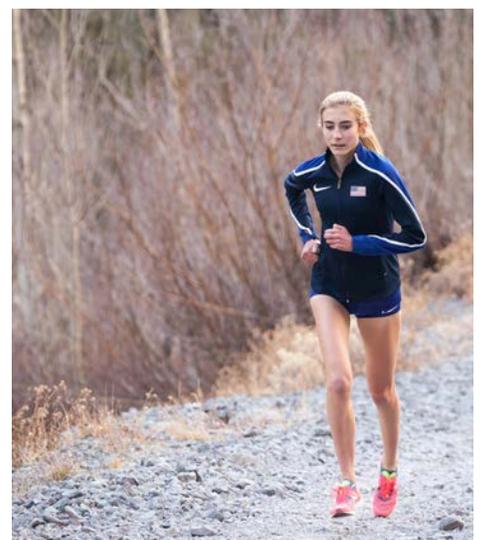
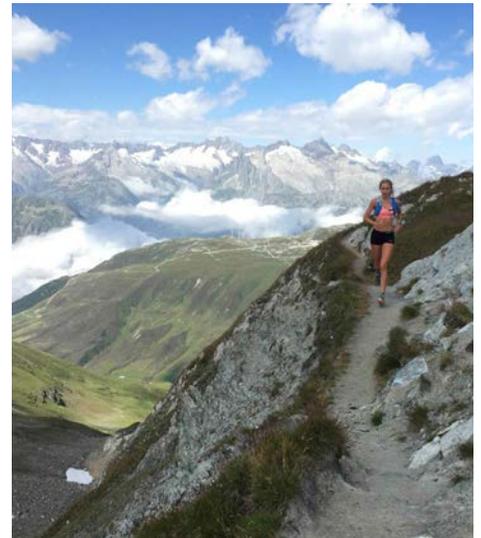
Her racing acumen is impressive to say the least. In addition to five state track and field titles, she is a member of the U.S. Mountain Running Team, a World Champion with the U.S. Snowshoe Running Team, Sportswoman of Colorado Award Winner, and was recently selected as the 2017 Wendy's High School Heisman National Winner.

But like most stories of triumph, Soleil had to hurdle mountain-sized obstacles in order to earn her success.

Early in life Soleil was diagnosed with selective mutism, an anxiety disorder that made it difficult for her to communicate in social settings. Instead of running away from her problem, she sprinted at it full speed. Soleil says she knew "being able to communicate was vital to bringing change to her community." After years of tackling the condition head on, Soleil is now the Student Body President, host of her own radio show, and even started her school's greenhouse.

When asked how The Congressional Award has helped her accomplish her goals, Soleil stated, "It is an incredible opportunity to tackle and work towards personal goals while improving yourself, your peers, and your community. I want to be a motivated, passionate, thoughtful, empathetic, contributing member of this great country. The Congressional Award helped me think about and arrange my activities to reach this goal."

“You can keep getting faster and you can keep exploring new trails. You can always achieve something more. You can always achieve a higher goal.”





HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS

“We’ve empowered an entire community that is often forgotten and assured them that everyone should be able to take the steps to improve their lives.”

Andrew Aboujaoude

Allen, Texas
Gold Medalist

Every week, more than 70 student volunteers from the University of Central Florida provide health screenings to Orlando’s homeless population.

This movement began when three honors students discovered that hypertension is one of the leading causes of death among homeless people. High blood pressure is one reason that homeless individuals have a 30 year shorter life expectancy than the general population.

Andrew Aboujaoude co-founded Hearts for the Homeless to not only improve the health of a community in dire need, but to restore some human dignity.

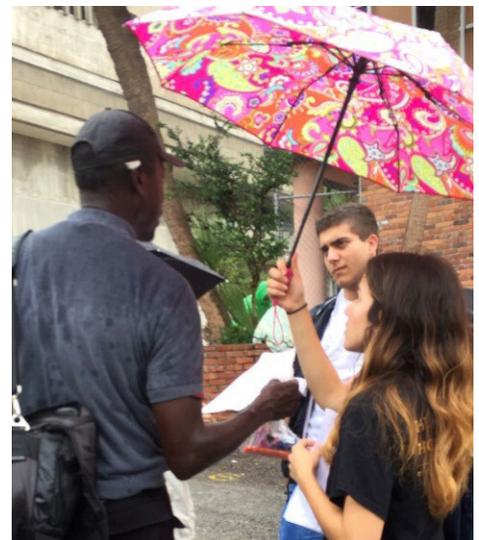
“At the end of the day, we present them with the opportunity to make this discovery on their own, and provide them with general heart health information. And they, as humans, now have the access to transform and save their lives.”

Hearts for the Homeless also made an indelible mark in recent disaster relief efforts. Before Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc, Andrew and his team of volunteers found innovative solutions to preemptively respond to the crisis.

Just before the storm made landfall in Florida, Andrew noticed that emergency storm warnings on tech platforms and news broadcasts weren’t reaching the city’s homeless population.

“I couldn’t even sleep, thinking about homeless people out there who may not even know this hurricane was coming,” said Aboujaoude in an interview.

Using only a team of 20 volunteers, Hearts for the Homeless trekked the city and neighboring communities to warn an estimated 247 homeless individuals, and ushered them to safety.



SPOTLIGHT ON STEM



The Congressional Award has a responsibility to help prepare the next generation of leaders.

As such, the Foundation has undertaken a commitment this year to increase science literacy, make STEM projects more accessible, and encourage young people to pursue an interest or career in a related discipline.

A well-prepared, innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce is critical to our nation's health and economy. Yet many of today's youth lack access to quality STEM programs.

Recent policy actions and reports have drawn attention to the opportunities and challenges inherent in increasing the number of highly qualified STEM graduates. Educating students to become tomorrow's innovators and leaders able to solve the world's most pressing challenges is a priority.

Through programs like the *STEM Stars Initiative* and the *Women in STEM Challenge*, our Foundation is steadily building a network of STEM Ambassadors.

The Congressional Award STEM Stars Initiative, presented by corporate partners, aims to stoke passion for science and math, at an age when many young people lose interest in them. The initiative exposes students to STEM-related concepts as well as STEM in everyday life—helping to make STEM more approachable.

Our goal is to have every Congressional Award participant participate in at least one STEM activity in earning their award, resulting in an estimated 2.25 million hours of STEM related projects.

STEM-POWERMENT

Priyanka Kumar

Latham, New York
Gold Medalist

Pri is working hard to break down the stereotypes of male-dominated fields while focusing on doing what she loves.

She's participated in competitive math competitions and artificial intelligence lab intensives, and even volunteered for a biomedical engineer to create 3D-printed human skin tissue for burn victims in hospitals.

Her journey began a few years ago at the AwesomeMath Summer Camp at Cornell University. Over the course of three-weeks, Pri learned discrete math topics ranging from probability and statistics to number theory. She loved tackling the challenges presented each day, exuberantly calling home each night to share the fascinating topics and proofs she learned.

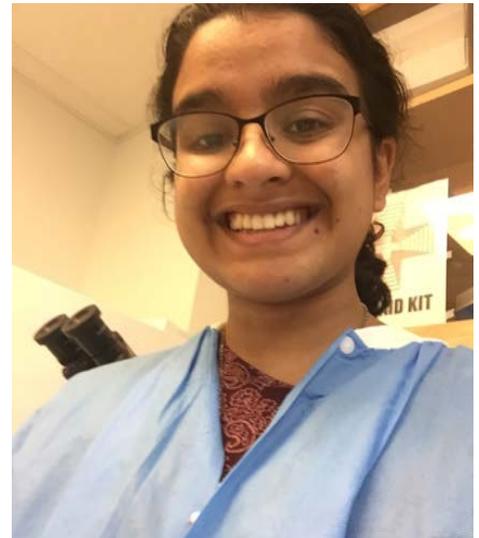
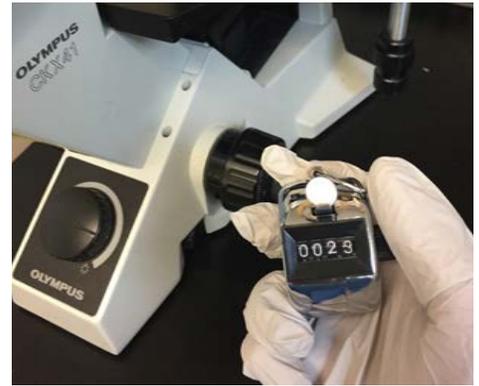
Pri put her skills to the test when she helped lift her team to 1st place in the Connecticut State Math Competition. She also went on to become the only freshman female on the Connecticut State Team at the American Regional Mathematics League National Competition.

Lately, Pri has discovered the math behind computer science at the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory Outreach Program, an intense two-week program taught by the Director of the Artificial Intelligence Lab.

Two weeks of learning Python and meeting other extraordinary women dedicated to STEM changed her life. Among other things, Pri used computers and programming to process and identify tweets asking for aid during natural disasters; made hospitals safer by reminding doctors to use hand sanitizers; designed auto-pilots for autonomous cars, and even used machine-learning algorithms to detect and identify cancer in the human genome.

Most recently, Pri has earned her Congressional Award Gold Medal by putting her STEM knowledge to use for others. She volunteered with a professor of Biomedical Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to make 3D-printed human skin tissue for burn victims in hospitals. Pri's skin samples could one day reduce the need for animal testing.

Ms. Kumar wants to see female representation across all STEM fields. Working with her peers and school administration, Pri created better opportunities for diversity and inclusion in the math and science department at her school.





OUR NETWORK

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U.S. Senate Page School

SHAWN WHITMAN
FMC Corporation

National/appointed members denoted by asterisk (*)

PARTNERSHIPS

Youth-focused and service organizations throughout America have recognized the potential of our young citizens when we strive to raise the bar. A partnership with The Congressional Award allows an organization's participants to incorporate their activities into their pursuit of the award.

4-H

4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension—a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing.



Kids complete hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture and citizenship, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles.

AMERICORPS NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) strengthens communities and develops leaders through direct, team-based national and community service.



AmeriCorps NCCC is built on the belief that civic responsibility is an inherent duty of all citizens and that national service programs work effectively with local communities to address pressing needs.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations, providing programs for young people that build character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.



GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs for girls from coast to coast and across the globe, Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to do something amazing.



HOB Y

Founded in 1958, HOBY's mission is to inspire and develop the global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation.



HOBY programs are conducted annually throughout the United States, serving local and international high school students selected by their schools to participate in unique leadership training, service-learning, and motivation-building exercises.

MILITARY FAMILY ADVISORY NETWORK

MFAN wants the best for our military community, because when military families are strong, our country is strong.



MFAN strives to build a community of military and veteran families at home and abroad who are well-informed about - and use - resources designed to serve them.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERNATIONAL

"When we connect with people different from us, it's easy to see that we're not so different after all."



PTPI creates lasting cross-cultural connections between everyday citizens around the world to help them explore global issues, serve and enrich their diverse communities, and become more effective leaders in creating a more peaceful world.

U.S. AIR FORCE

The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight, and win...in air, space, and cyberspace.



We have partnered with the Air Force to offer The Congressional Award as a youth development tool on bases across the nation. Families and youth stationed in the U.S. or abroad can work with their youth liaison to identify activities that are eligible for the program.

U.S. AIR FORCE

YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA

YSA is a resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people, ages 5-25, to serve locally, nationally, and globally.



YSA organizes large-scale mobilization campaigns like Global Youth Service Day, provides grant opportunities for youth-led service projects. YSA Learning Center equips youth and their adult mentors with high-quality, high-impact service and service-learning programs. YSA even presents awards that recognize exceptional youth and the adults who are champions of youth voice.

LEAD SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for the generous support from corporations and foundations who fuel our work, especially these premier partners.



Caring *about tomorrow*

At Bayer, we're excited about the future and its possibilities. Advancing life is what we do best and care about the most. We know the solutions we create today for people, plants and animals will make a better tomorrow to help people and our planet thrive.

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The Congressional Award
379 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.congressionalaward.org

Toll Free: 1-888-80-AWARD
Phone: (202) 226-0130
Fax: (202) 226-0131

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