



2019 GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

Frequently Asked Questions

Thursday, June 20, 2019

U.S. Capitol Visitor Center - Congressional Auditorium

About

The Congressional Award is the U.S. Congress' award program for youth. Established by Congress as a public-private partnership in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, the program encourages and recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in youth ages 13 1/2–23. The Congressional Award remains Congress' only charity and the highest honor bestowed upon a youth civilian through the Senate and House.

Who are The Congressional Award Gold Medalists?

Congressional Award Gold Medalists have contributed over 400 hours of Voluntary Public Service, 200 hours of Personal Development and Physical Fitness hours respectively, and a four consecutive night Expedition or Exploration to earn this honor. The Gold Medal is the pinnacle of The Congressional Award program.

What is The Congressional Award Gold Medal Ceremony?

The Gold Medal Ceremony is an annual event that recognizes youth from across the country for earning Congress' highest award for youth, The Congressional Award Gold Medal. Medalists and their families, as well as corporate and civic leaders will be in attendance to recognize youth for their commitment to service and personal goal-setting. The ceremony is a culmination of at least two years of hard work and determination.

When and where is the ceremony?

In order to accommodate all guests, three ceremonies will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2019. The ceremony will be held in the Capitol Visitor Center Congressional Auditorium.

10:00 a.m. | Ceremony I

Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, and Wyoming.

12:30 p.m. | Ceremony II

Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

3:00 p.m. | Ceremony III

Arizona, Armed Services Abroad, California, Colorado, Florida, New Jersey, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

How does the ceremony run?

The ceremony is similar to a graduation commencement with an emcee and keynote speaker. It is a brief presentation, speaking is not expected. Members are only asked to present the Medal and pose for a photo with each Medalist. After which, the Member is free to leave and resume their schedule. If a Member cannot attend, we will ask another Member of Congress to step in. We will provide contact information for each Medalist with the official scheduling request, if you would like to reach out to your constituents directly.

Media Information

The Congressional Award notifies local and national press of the Gold Medal recipients. If you would like a copy of the release to disperse, please let us know. Photos are also available for Congressional Offices the day following the Gold Medal Ceremony for press purposes. If your office would like photos for social media or releases, they can be requested by contacting gold@congressionalaward.org.

Recognizing Your Gold Medalist(s)

Present at the assigned time during the Gold Medal Ceremony on June 20, 2019.

Invite Gold Medalists and their guests to your office. Contact information will be included in the scheduling request in May.

Highlight Gold Medalists on social channels. Schedule social media posts, mention in a newsletter or email, and/or write a press release. Mention or tag The Congressional Award and use #gold2019.

facebook.com/thecongressionalaward
instagram.com/thecongressionalaward
twitter.com/theaward

Enter Gold Medalists and their accomplishments into the Congressional Record.

Arrange a tour for Gold Medalists and guests. Some offices even invite Medalists on Member-led tours.

Constituent Coffees and Meet and Greets

We know that Members and Congressional Offices are very busy. However, we do ask that if attendance at the ceremony is not possible, please do NOT automatically invite these deserving youth and their families to a regularly scheduled constituent coffee or group meet and greet. Gold Medalists have taken Congress' challenge to better themselves and their communities. Inviting them to a Constituent Coffee or group meet and greet does not necessarily meet the expectations of recognizing them for their hard work.

What if a Member cannot attend?

If a Member is unable to attend, a Member from a neighboring district or possibly another state will make the presentation in their stead. If the schedule will not permit attendance during the Gold Medal Ceremony, we recommend contacting the constituents directly to set up a meeting with the Member in lieu of the ceremony. These families have been planning for this recognition for at least two years and have made all of their own travel arrangements.

What if a Gold Medalist cannot attend?

If a Medalist cancels after the scheduling request is sent, we will notify your Washington, DC office immediately. We will also include contact information for Medalists from your district that may not be able to attend due to their own scheduling. If they requested a local presentation, a scheduling request will be sent to your district office for the August Recess. Some Medalists also opt to have their medals sent directly to them. As these are your constituents, you may follow up as you feel appropriate.

Questions?

The Congressional Award is located in the Ford House Office Building (H2-379). Please feel free to contact us at 6-0130 with any questions or concerns. Direct email inquiries to Kirsten Gooden, Program Director, at gooden@congressionalaward.org.