

Are **YOU**
a young person
who has
advocated for
change that
improves the
lives of children
or youth?

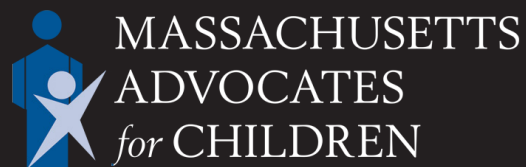


Then you can be our **Youth Advocate of the Year!**

Massachusetts Advocates For Children is seeking applicants (individuals and youth organizations) who have conducted effective advocacy on behalf of Massachusetts children or youth. The deadline for submitting your application is **September 22nd, 2014.**

www.massadvocates.org

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ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON WHO HAS ADVOCATED FOR CHANGE THAT IMPROVES THE LIVES OF CHILDREN OR YOUTH?

THEN YOU COULD BE OUR YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR.

Youth Advocate of the Year

MAC is seeking applications from individuals and youth organizations who have conducted effective advocacy over the past year on behalf of one or more Massachusetts children or youth.

The deadline for submitting the attached application is **September 22, 2014**. Please see the eligibility requirements below and in and the Contest Rules.

A distinguished selection panel will review the applications and choose the Youth Advocate of the Year winner(s).

Subject to the Contest Rules, the winners will receive cash prizes and recognition when the Youth Advocate of the Year Award is presented at MAC's Annual Event, to be held in Boston on October 23rd.

One youth organization winner will receive the **John Mudd Youth Advocate of the Year Organizational Advocacy Award of**

\$1,000 to use for purposes of training or increasing the skills and knowledge of the youth members.

The winning entry from one or more individuals will receive the **Sondra Peskoe Youth Advocate of the Year Award of \$500**.

Other applicants may receive non-cash prize honorable mention recognition. (See the Contest Rules for definitions and a more complete explanation of the award process.)

To be eligible, the Youth Advocate of the Year Award applicant must have identified a problem or barrier facing a child or children in Massachusetts and responded with advocacy.

The Youth Advocate of the Year Award supports MAC's mission: to be an independent and effective voice for children who face significant barriers to equal educational and life opportunities.

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Eligible applications should meet the following criteria, as more specifically set forth in the Contest Rules:

- The YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR Award applicant must have been 18 years old or younger at the time the last part of the advocacy was conducted. College-sponsored groups are not eligible.
- Individual applicants must be at least 13 years old when the application is submitted.
- The advocacy must have been conducted in whole or in part during the past year, from May 1, 2013 to the present (i.e., the advocacy could have started earlier).
- The advocacy could have benefited the applicant alone or any others, but the beneficiaries must be a child or children in Massachusetts.

- Applicants for the individual award may not have been serving as a paid or unpaid staff leader to a youth organization while conducting the advocacy. Such advocacy should be entered into the “organization” category.

The application can be written and submitted by any adult to nominate the youth organization or individual youth(s).

A young person can also self-nominate, but if he or she is under 18, the application form must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Supporting letters by adults can also be submitted as part of the documentation included in the application.

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Send all completed applications to:

Massachusetts Advocates for Children
YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR Award
25 Kingston Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02111
Fax: (617) 357 8438

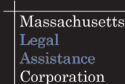
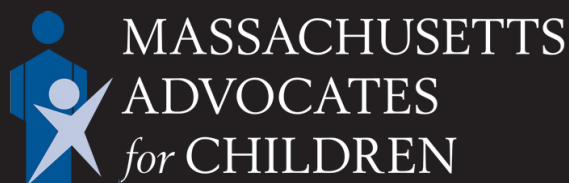
You can email your completed applications to:

tduarte@massadvocates.org

Please forward all inquiries to:

Daniel Perlman
617-357-8431 x 225 or
dperlman@massadvocates.org

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YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATION

Choose either A or B

A. Name of Individual(s):

B. Name of Youth Group/Organization:

Address:

B. Name of affiliated organization, if applicable (e.g., school, faith organization):

A. Current Age of Individual(s):

B. Age Range of Youth Group:

Phone:

Website (if any):

Contact Person:

Email:

Name of person nominating applicant and filling out this form:

Relationship to applicant:

NARRATIVE: IN A SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE FOLLOW AND COMPLETE EACH OF THE THREE SECTIONS BELOW AS IT RELATES TO YOUR ADVOCACY WORK. (3 pages MAXIMUM)

1) Describe the problem:

- Who was affected?
- What institution was responsible for the barrier?

3) Describe the results:

- Describe the change in policy or practice made by institution, if any.
- Describe change in attitudes/behavior by key decision-makers (if appropriate)
- How did the young people (or young person) affected by the problem benefit?
- Were any follow up activities conducted to make sure change was made as promised?

2) Describe the nature of the advocacy:

- What strategy did you use and how was it arrived at?
- Did you recruit other people to help you? If so, who?
- Describe the actions taken
- Describe the responses/reactions of the institution
- For youth group/organization only, describe the leadership role played by the youth members of your organization in conducting the advocacy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Supporting evidence **must** be provided (in any medium)

Please gather any information that may be helpful in substantiating your proposal. Information may include newspaper articles, videos, testimonials, web page links referencing your work, etc.

YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATION

If the applicant is under 18 years of age and self-nominating, the applicant's parent or legal guardian must sign the application authorizing the submission and MAC's consideration of the application and agreeing, on behalf of the applicant, to all terms and conditions in the Official Contest Rules.

SIGNATURE

Applicant

Please check this box, which will state that you **DO NOT** have a **CONFLICT OF INTEREST** as described in the governing contest rules. (See Sect. 4)

Applicant (PLEASE PRINT)

I have read and agree with the contest rules.

HOW TO SUBMIT APPLICATION:

A complete application must have the following four elements:

- Cover page contact information
- Narrative (*no more than three pages*)
- Supporting documentation
- Signed application **WITH** both boxes checked (*above*).

They can be emailed to: Tania Duarte at tuarte@massadvocates.org by **September 22, 2014** or sent by mail, postmarked no later than **September 22**, to: Massachusetts Advocates for Children, 25 Kingston St., #2F, Boston, MA 02111.

If you have any questions, please contact: Daniel Perlman, 617-357-8431 x 225, dperlman@massadvocates.org.

YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD CONTEST RULES

NO PURCHASE, DONATION OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN THIS CONTEST. A PURCHASE, DONATION OR PAYMENT WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW.

APPLICANTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE MUST HAVE A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN'S PERMISSION TO ENTER THIS CONTEST. APPLICANTS (AND IF UNDER AGE 18, THEIR PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS) (I) CERTIFY THAT THEY MEET ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CONTEST; (II) AGREE TO ACCEPT AND BE BOUND BY ALL TERMS OF THESE OFFICIAL RULES ("CONTEST RULES"); AND (III) MUST SIGN ON THE DESIGNATED SECTION OF THE APPLICATION FORM THAT THEY HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES.

1. Organizer: This Youth Advocate of the Year Award Contest (the "Contest") is organized by the Massachusetts Advocates for Children ("MAC"), a private nonprofit organization. MAC's principal offices are at 25 Kingston Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

2. Important Contest Dates: (a) The Contest entry period begins on May 1, 2014 and ends on September 22, 2014 at 12:00:00 midnight (the "Entry Period"). Applications (including all supporting materials) must be emailed or postmarked on a date within the Entry Period in order to be considered. Supporting materials must be submitted with the application or they will not be considered. In these Contest Rules, all times are local times in Boston, Massachusetts.

(b) The advocacy that is the subject of the application must have occurred in whole or in part within the past year (after May 1, 2013 but the advocacy could have started earlier)

3. Description of the Award; Award Conditions; Liability for Taxes: (a) (i) One "Youth Organization" (as defined below) winner will receive a \$1,000 John Mudd Organizational Advocacy grant award to use for purposes of training or increasing the skills and knowledge of the youth members. (ii) One "Individual Youth" (as defined below) winner will receive the Sondra Peskoe Youth Advocate of the Year Award of \$500, to be divided among the number of individual youth nominees per the winning application. (iii) Additional applicants may be chosen for noncash recognition as "honorable mention" at the discretion of the judges.

(b) For purposes of these Contest Rules, (i) "Youth Organization" means a youth group or organization with more than one participating member formally affiliated or sponsored by an agency such as a school, religious institution, membership organization or community based nonprofit organization; (ii) "Individual Youth" means one or more individual meeting the age requirements of Section 4 who conducted advocacy alone or together separate and apart from a Youth Organization; (iii) "Public or private institution" means a local, state or federal governmental entity, including a school, or a private business or nonprofit organization, whose policies or practices have the power to keep a child or children from equal opportunity, broadly defined.

(c) Each prize winner (and, if under 18, his/her parent or legal guardian) will be required to execute an Affidavit of Eligibility, a Liability Release and a Publicity Release (collectively, the "Prize Claim Documents"). If a prize winner (or, if under 18, his/her parent or legal guardian) fails or refuses to sign and return all Prize Claim Documents within ten (10) days of receipt of notice that he/she is a potential award winner, such potential award winner may be disqualified and an alternate prize winner may be selected.

(d) Any tax liability of any nature, including income disclosure obligations, related to the receipt and/or use of a prize, shall be the sole responsibility of the recipient. Winners of prizes having a value \$600 or greater will be issued a 1099 U.S. Tax Form for the value of the prize.

4. Eligibility: (a) Participation in this Contest is open only to individuals who: (i) are Massachusetts residents; (ii) are at least 13 years old at the time of application; and (iii) were enrolled in elementary, middle, or high school in Massachusetts, or if not enrolled, must have been 18 years old or younger at the time the last part of the advocacy was conducted. In addition, the advocacy described in the application (iv) must have occurred in whole or in part (i.e., the advocacy could have started earlier) after May 1, 2013; and (v) must have benefitted Massachusetts children (although the advocacy may have benefitted the applicant alone or others).

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following persons or youth organizations are NOT ELIGIBLE to participate in this Contest: (i) employees, officers, directors and agents of MAC, and officer and directors of the Sponsors of this Contest, (all of the foregoing, collectively, the "Agents"); (ii) parents, spouses, children, brothers and sisters of Agents; (iii) individuals living in the same household as Agents; (iv) youth organizations that are funded or formally affiliated with any of the award sponsors.

(c) Only one application per youth group and per individual will be accepted. If multiple applications are received from any youth group or from any individual, only the first application received will be considered.

(d) Any youth organization previously awarded by MAC is not eligible for the winning prize for youth organizations.

e) Supporting materials documenting or verifying the advocacy must be submitted with the application or it will not be considered. Supporting letters by parents or youth organization leaders can also be submitted as part of the application, but will not be sufficient alone to verify the advocacy. Documentation may include newspaper articles, videos, testimonials, web page links, letters from individuals not related to or affiliated with the applicant, or official report of the outcome change by the public or private institution.

YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD CONTEST RULES

email and postal address and for frequently checking for email and postal messages from MAC. MAC will not be responsible for email or post messages sent that are not viewed by the recipient in a timely manner. Individuals that provide information reasonably determined by MAC (in its sole discretion) to be incomplete, false or deceptive, will be ineligible to participate or (if they have already participated) to win the Contest.

5. How to Enter: (a) Eligible participants may enter the Contest only by providing and submitting the information required on the Contest application in accordance with Sections 2, 4 and 6 in these Contest Rules. The application can be written and submitted in the first person by the applicant(s), or by an adult with a relationship to the child (e.g., parent, teacher). If the young person who self-nominates is under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign the application form.

(b) No attempted means of entering the Contest other than that described in Sections 2 and 5(a) will be accepted as a valid application in the Contest.

(c) MAC and each of its employees and agents will not be responsible for undelivered, lost, late, misdirected, garbled or incomplete entries. Any such entries may be deemed void by MAC in its sole discretion.

(d) Neither MAC, the Sponsors nor any of the other Agents shall have any obligation, responsibility or liability with respect to: (i) notifications, communications or materials sent from an applicant to MAC or from MAC to an applicant that are lost, late, misdirected, stolen, garbled, inaccurate, incomplete, illegible, unintelligible, damaged, destroyed or otherwise not received by the intended recipient, in whole or in part, due to computer, post office or technical malfunctions or error of any kind, (ii) telephone, electronic, hardware, software, network, Internet or computer malfunctions, failures or difficulties, (iii) power related or weather related events of any kind, and/or to any events not under MAC's direct control, (iv) entries or other communications from applicants that contain inaccurate information, that have been altered without authorization or that do not comply with these Contest Rules, and/or (v) errors, omissions, interruptions, deletions, defects, delays in operation or transmissions, theft, destruction, unauthorized access or alterations by applicant or third parties.

e) All applications (including all supporting materials) become the physical property of MAC and will not be acknowledged or returned. Applicants retain whatever intellectual property rights they have in their Applications (including any supporting documentation - e.g., electronic or written works related to the project); provided however, by submitting an Application entering this Contest, applicants (and, if under 18, their parents or legal guardians) thereby, and without need for any further documentation, grant to MAC an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide, royalty free license to use (which term includes reproduce and otherwise exploit) such works as MAC deems necessary in connection with the promotion, advertisement or publication of this Contest and/or MAC's mission generally.

6. Application Requirements: To be accepted, each Application must not exceed three (3) pages in length, not including documentation and supporting material. Applications not in accordance with these Contest Rules will not be considered.

7. Applicant's Certifications as to His/Her Application: By entering, each nominator (and, if self-nominated and under 18, his/her parent or legal guardian) represents and warrants that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria set forth in Section 4 and that the applicant's Application: (i) complies with these Contest Rules; (ii) accurately describes the applicant's advocacy and is not false or misleading in any respect; (iii) does not infringe or violate the intellectual property rights or other rights of any third party, including but not limited to rights of copyright, trademark, service mark, patent or trade secret, contract rights, licensing rights, rights of publicity or privacy, moral rights, or any other intellectual property rights; and (iv) if it contains content previously submitted in any other contest, such content has not won an award or prize of any kind.

8. Judging: The Applications will be evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges consisting of representatives from the corporate, educational, university, public service and similar fields, as well as a representation of young people. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of (i) certain threshold criteria previously identified in sections 2(a), 4(a)(i-vi), 4(b), 4(d), 4(e) and 6; and (ii) the relative merits of criteria in the responses to the required parts 1-3 of the narrative listed on the Application Form. While achieving an advocacy outcome in the form of a change in a public or private institution policy or practice is not required, it will be advantageous. All decisions of the judges are final.

9. Notification of the Winners and Award Procedure: The potential award winners will be notified by U.S. mail after the judging, which is expected to be completed within [forty five (45)] days after the end of the Entry Period. If a notification sent to a potential award winner is returned as undeliverable, or if the potential award winner's response is not received by MAC within ten (10) days after MAC's notification is sent, or if the potential award winner is determined by MAC (in MAC's sole discretion) to be ineligible or not in compliance with these Contest Rules, the potential award winner will be disqualified and the participant whose Application was evaluated immediately lower in the competition will be selected as the potential award winner (and the others will move up in order, as applicable). Persons finally identified as the award winners will receive their cash prizes at MAC's Annual Event and Auction, to be held in Boston on October 23, 2014. If any award winner is unable to attend MAC's Annual Event and Auction, his/her prize will be delivered by U.S. Mail or private delivery service (e.g., FedEx, UPS) as determined by MAC in MAC's sole discretion.

YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD CONTEST RULES

10. Ownership of Applications: See Section 5 (e) above.

11. Grant of Rights by Entrants: By submitting an Application and thereby entering this Contest, each applicant (and, if under 18, his/her parent or legal guardian) grants MAC the right to use the applicant's name, image, likeness, voice, photograph, statements and/or award information, and/or any portion of any of the foregoing, for promotional, advertising and/or publicity purposes in any media, now or hereafter known, throughout the world and in perpetuity, without compensation or notice to, or further consent of, the applicant (or, if the applicant is under 18, his/her parent or legal guardian), to the extent permitted by law.

12. Waiver and Release of Liability by Entrants: (a) By entering this Contest, each applicant (and, if under 18, his/her parent or legal guardian), on behalf of applicant and the applicant's heirs, successors, assigns, agents and representatives, and without further compensation of any kind, agrees not to instigate, support, maintain, or authorize any action, claim, or lawsuit against MAC, any one or more of the Sponsors, and/or any of the other Agents, any of their heirs, successors, assigns, agents and/or representatives, in connection with this Contest, the award, acceptance, possession, use or misuse of any prize and/or on the grounds that any use of any Application, or any derivative works thereof, infringes or violates any rights of the applicant.

(b) BY ENTERING THIS CONTEST, EACH APPLICANT (AND, IF UNDER 18, APPLICANT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN), ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT AND APPLICANT'S HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AGENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES, RELEASES MAC, EACH SPONSOR, AND EACH OF SUCCESSOR AND ASSIGN OF THE FOREGOING, FROM AND OF ANY AND ALL CLAIMS AND DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION AND/OR ENTRY IN THIS CONTEST AND/OR THE AWARD, ACCEPTANCE, POSSESSION, USE OR MISUSE OF ANY PRIZE AWARDED IN THIS CONTEST.

13. Tampering: (a) MAC, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to disqualify and prohibit from participating any person who MAC determines (in its sole discretion) is or is attempting to: (i) tamper with any part of the Contest; (ii) attempting to undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest by cheating, deception, or other unfair practices; and/or (iii) otherwise violate these Contest Rules.

(b) ANY ATTEMPT TO DELIBERATELY UNDERMINE THE OPERATION OF THIS CONTEST MAY BE A VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAWS. SHOULD ANY SUCH ATTEMPT BE MADE, MAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SEEK DAMAGES AND ANY OTHER AVAILABLE REMEDIES FROM ANY SUCH PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SUCH ATTEMPT TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW. EACH APPLICANT AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS MAC, THE SPONSORS AND ALL OTHER AGENTS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, LOSSES, DAMAGES AND/OR LIABILITIES (INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES) THAT MAY BE ASSERTED AGAINST OR INCURRED BY ANY OF THEM AT ANY TIME, IN CONNECTION WITH APPLICANT'S APPLICATION, OR THE USE THEREOF, AND/OR BY APPLICANT'S

BREACHES OF ANY REPRESENTATION, WARRANTY OR COVENANTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CONTEST.

14. MAC's Right to Terminate this Contest: If, in MAC's opinion, there is any suspected or actual evidence of fraud, electronic or non electronic tampering or unauthorized intervention with any portion of this Contest, or if fraud or technical difficulties of any sort (e.g., computer viruses, bugs) compromise the integrity of the Contest, MAC reserves the right to void suspect Application submissions and/or evaluations and/or terminate the Contest and award the prizes in its sole discretion.

15. Identification of the Winner: To the extent permitted by law, each Contest winner's name, city and state of residence may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope, within one year after MAC's Annual Event and Auction on October 23, 2014 to: Massachusetts Advocates for Children, 25 Kingston Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02111. Please specify "Youth Advocate of the Year Awards" on the envelope. Only one request per envelope. Such information will be available only for that one-year period.

16. General Terms: (a) This Contest is subject to these Contest Rules and is governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (without reference to its rules concerning conflicts of law) and the applicable federal laws of the United States of America. By entering the Contest, each Applicant (and, if under 18, the applicant's parent or legal guardian) agrees to be bound by and subject to (i) the Rules, and (ii) the decisions of MAC and the Judges, respectively, where they play role in this Contest (which decisions shall be final and binding in all respects). All claims and disputes relating to this Contest shall be litigated exclusively in the state and federal courts residing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and in no other court or jurisdiction. Applicants hereby submit to the jurisdiction of the state and federal courts sitting in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(b) The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these Contest Rules shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. In the event that any provision is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable or illegal, these Contest Rules shall otherwise remain in effect and shall be construed in accordance with their terms as if the invalid or illegal provision were not contained herein.