

National Awards Program Seeking Mississippi's Top Youth Volunteers Of 2019
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The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards will grant two Mississippi honorees \$1,000, a medallion and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Nettleton and Indianola students were Mississippi's top youth volunteers of 2018

JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 4, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Today through November 6, 2018, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is looking for Mississippi's top youth volunteers of the year.

Students in grades 5-12 are invited to apply for 2019 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards if they have made meaningful contributions to their communities through volunteer service within the past 12 months. The application is available at <http://spirit.prudential.com> and www.nassp.org/spirit.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), was created in 1995 to recognize the exemplary volunteer work of middle level and high school students. The awards have been granted annually for the past 23 years on the local, state and national level.

"After more than two decades of honoring young volunteers, we know that students are a powerful force for good," said Prudential Chairman and CEO John Strangfeld. "We shine a spotlight on their service in hopes that others will be inspired to follow their example."

Mississippi's top youth volunteers of 2018 were **Grace McAllister, 15, of Nettleton**, who has collected and donated more than 1,000 new stuffed animals to comfort children traumatized by sexual abuse and let them know that they are not alone, and **Jameshia Attaway, 14, of Indianola**, who supplies five schools in her area with personal hygiene items that she collects for students who have a need for them during the school day. Read more about Grace and Jameshia at <http://spirit.prudential.com/honorees/2018/ms>.

How to Apply

To apply for a 2019 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, students and certifiers must complete the following steps:

- Students complete the [online application](#) by **November 6, 2018**.
- Then, students submit the application for certification to their principal or head of a local participating organization.
- Certifiers review all applications for their school or organization, then select a Local Honoree to nominate for state-level judging by **November 16, 2018**.

Applications can be certified by a middle or high school principal or head of a Girl Scout council, county 4-H organization, American Red Cross chapter, YMCA or an affiliate of Points of Light's HandsOn Network. (Students can request a paper application by calling 855-670-4787.)

The 2019 Awards Program

On February 5, 2019, the top middle level and high school volunteer from each state and the District of Columbia will be named State Honorees. They will receive \$1,000, engraved silver medallions and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., with a parent or guardian for four days of recognition events from May 4-7, 2019.

In Washington, a distinguished national selection committee will name 10 of the 102 State Honorees as America's top youth volunteers of the year. These National Honorees will receive additional awards of \$5,000, gold medallions, crystal trophies for their nominating schools or organizations, and \$5,000 grants from The Prudential Foundation for nonprofit charitable organizations of their choice.

Several Distinguished Finalists in each state will receive bronze medallions, and runners-up will receive Certificates of Excellence. Local Honorees selected by schools and participating organizations for state-level

judging will be presented with Certificates of Achievement; they will also receive President's Volunteer Service Awards if they have served the minimum number of volunteer hours to qualify (26 hours for age 10 and younger, 50 hours for ages 11-15 and 100 hours for older students).

"It's an honor to recognize middle level and high school students making a difference through volunteer service," said JoAnn Bartoletti, executive director of NASSP. "We look forward to another year of celebrating the impact, initiative and compassion of young volunteers."

About The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteer community service, and has honored more than 125,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level over the past 23 years. The awards program also is conducted in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Ireland, India, China and Brazil, where Prudential has significant business operations.

About NASSP

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is the leading organization of and voice for principals and other school leaders across the United States. NASSP seeks to transform education through school leadership, recognizing that the fulfillment of each student's potential relies on great leaders in every school committed to the success of each student. Reflecting its long-standing commitment to student leadership development, NASSP administers the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, National Elementary Honor Society, and National Student Council. Learn more at www.nassp.org.

About Prudential Financial

Prudential Financial, Inc. (NYSE: PRU), a financial services leader, has operations in the United States, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Prudential's diverse and talented employees are committed to helping individual and institutional customers grow and protect their wealth through a variety of products and services, including life insurance, annuities, retirement-related services, mutual funds and investment management. In the U.S., Prudential's iconic Rock symbol has stood for strength, stability, expertise and innovation for more than a century. For more information, please visit www.news.prudential.com.

[Editors: The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program logo and other multimedia resources are available at <http://spirit.prudential.com>.]

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