



Donald T. Floyd, Jr.  
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September 8, 2009

Dear State 4-H Leader:

I am delighted to report that 4-H again will have the opportunity to participate in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards and its annual search for our nation's top youth volunteers.

Last year, 132 county 4-H programs selected honorees in this prestigious youth recognition program, and 89 4-H members received state-level awards. Seventeen 4-H participants were among the program's 102 State Honorees for 2009, and 20 were among 234 Distinguished Finalists. This recognition from an independent awards program is extremely beneficial to individual 4-H members who have performed exemplary acts of service in their communities, your state 4-H program, and 4-H as a whole.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recognizes individuals in grades 5-12 solely on the basis of their volunteer activities. 4-H participants can apply online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or [www.principals.org/prudential](http://www.principals.org/prudential). Applications must be completed, printed out, signed, and submitted to a county 4-H agent by **November 2, 2009**. Then, each county 4-H program can select one middle level Local Honoree for every 1,000 members (or portion thereof) in grades 5-8 and one high school Local Honoree for every 1,000 members in grades 9-12. Once county 4-H programs have selected Local Honorees, they must certify those applications by **November 9, 2009** to a state-level judging committee, which will pick the top youth volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

All state-level honorees receive special recognition, while the top high school and middle level volunteer in each state and the District of Columbia receive silver medallions, \$1,000 awards, and a fabulous trip to the nation's capital for national recognition events. In Washington, a national selection committee (on which I serve) will name America's top 10 youth volunteers for 2010. Each will win an additional \$5,000, a gold medallion, a crystal trophy, and a \$5,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation for a charitable nonprofit organization of his or her choice.

You can help by urging the county 4-H agents in your state to nominate 4-H participants for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Enclosed is a copy of the promotional material they will receive, along with a press release being issued today. Feel free to use the release in your publications and encourage reporters you know to use the story. Additional information is available at <http://spirit.prudential.com>.

I have attended the national recognition events for The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards and I have seen first-hand the power of this program to reward and inspire young people. By participating, we can applaud the terrific volunteer work of individual 4-H members and highlight the emphasis that the 4-H community of young people across America places on community involvement. Thank you for your help with this important and unique youth recognition program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald T. Floyd, Jr.', written over a white background.

Donald T. Floyd, Jr.

Enclosures