

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #200 (2009-2010)

February 22, 2010

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF 2009 SPIRIT OF YOUTH NOMINEES

*ASD Goal: Education in the highly diverse ASD will be accessible, culturally responsive, supportive of students and safe.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

Spirit of Youth is dedicated to creating, promoting and recognizing youth involvement in communities across Alaska. Nominations are made by anyone who wishes to recognize a hard-working, inspiring teenager or youth group in one of 11 award categories.

Spirit of Youth recognition shows appreciation for acts that typically are not formally recognized; acts such as community service, media, science and environmental efforts, cultural activities and overcoming challenges.

The students, or student groups, in the attached document are the fall nominees for a 2009 Spirit of Youth Award. The attached document includes a summary of the activities for which they were nominated.

It is the administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board recognize these students and student groups as nominees for the 2009 Spirit of Youth Award. They should be commended for their creativity, compassion and dedication to community service.

CC/RD/HS  
Attachment

Prepared by: Ronnie Dent, Communications Specialist

Approved by: Heather Sawyer, Executive Director, Communications

Nominee	Nominee School	Nomination Category	Nomination Summary
Susan Bick	Bartlett High School	Science and Environment	Susan was a Senior Crew Member through Anchorage's Youth Employment in Parks Program to lead her peers in building and restoring trails. She sets a positive, hard-working example.
Taj Showalter	Bartlett High School	Fine Arts	Taj is a member of his school's choir. He also sings at local events.
Ataqun	Bartlett, East and West High Schools	Cultural Pursuits	Ataqun is the only Anchorage School Alaska Native dance group. Selected teens performed at the 2009 C-amai' Dance Festival in Bethel and for many teens, it was a return to their birthplace.
Mary Rasheed	Central Middle School	Cultural Pursuits	In addition to being a "volunteer extraordinaire," Mary assisted in writing a book called "Magical Masks" with the Home Base After School Program. Mary and other students traveled to Ghana, Africa to give supplies and the book to children, which also helped with fundraising.
Devon Williams	Chugiak High School	Service to Community	Devon is a natural leader and volunteer, whether it is with the Imaginarium, Chugiak ROTC, assisting local military neighbors whose husbands are deployed, or at the Eagle River Boys & Girls Club.
David Smith	Chugiak High School	Fine Arts	David is a part of the Asteroids, a group of performers who have grown in maturity and appearance for several years. The Asteroids share their talents at benefit events.
Lea Swaim	Chugiak High School	Service to Young Children	Lea volunteered at the Eagle River Boys & Girls Club to organize and maintain the summer field trip program so all of the younger members and her peers could have equal opportunities to attend fun outdoor activities.
Cody Berglin	Denali Montessori Elementary School	Service to Peers	Cody has been a peer mediator for three years and commits to helping children, listening to their needs and helping students solve small problems.
Lena Illig	Dimond High School	Service to Community	Lena works directly with people hurt by sexual violence by volunteering for STAR's 24-hour crisis line. She is a valuable member of the team.
Casey Hoflich	Dimond High School	Fine Arts	Casey is a part of the Asteroids, a group of performers who have grown in maturity and appearance for several years. The Asteroids share their talents at benefit events.

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Ethan Keanaaina	Eagle River High School	Fine Arts	Ethan creates artwork for his Boys & Girls Clubhouse and he inspires younger members to be creative through their own hidden talents. Ethan is also heavily involved in creating manga drawings.
Ruth Yang	East High School	Fine Arts	Ruth and Maisee took part in the Write-Direct-and-Produce-Your-Own-Radio-Play contest in Anchorage. They won first-place for their entry, "A Magical Soul Tale."
Maisee Xiong	East High School	Fine Arts	Ruth and Maisee took part in the Write-Direct-and-Produce-Your-Own-Radio-Play contest in Anchorage. They won first-place for their entry, "A Magical Soul Tale."
Kelsey Mahlev's 8th Grade Social Studies Class	Gruening Middle School	Service to Community	The 8th-grade class identified childhood obesity as a problem in the community and developed an action plan which required gym class time as their class policy.
Angus Gilbert	Mirror Lake Middle School	Service to Community	Angus assisted with the start of Iditarod 2009. He helped send information to the "Staging Net" which keeps track of the dog teams on the course.
Kayleigh Gilbert	Mirror Lake Middle School	Service to Community	Kayleigh assisted with the start of Iditarod 2009 by helping run the "Trail Net" and sending information to the "Staging Net" which keeps track of the dog teams on the trail.
Caroline Hunt	Mirror Lake Middle School	Service to Community	Caroline is a member of the KAUG Student Broadcasting group. They are pioneering radio programming for their community and school.
David Warner	Mirror Lake Middle School	Service to Community	David is a member of the KAUG Student Broadcasting group. They are pioneering radio programming for their community and school.
Joselynn Curry	Mirror Lake Middle School	Service to Community	Joselynn is a member of the KAUG Student Broadcasting group. They are pioneering radio programming for their community and school.
Miles Allen	Polaris K-12	Fine Arts	Miles is a part of the Asteroids, a group of performers who have grown in maturity and appearance for several years. The Asteroids share their talents at benefit events.
Ryan McLaughlin	Polaris K-12	Fine Arts	Ryan is a part of the Asteroids, a group of performers who have grown in maturity and appearance for several years. The Asteroids share their talents at benefit events.

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Sean Galvin	Polaris K-12	Fine Arts	Sean is a part of the Asteroids, a group of performers who have grown in maturity and appearance for several years. The Asteroids share their talents at benefit events.
Tasha Moore	Service High School	Cultural Activities	Tasha and her two sisters practice their traditional Eskimo dancing, or "yuraq" after school at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.
Brandi Moore	Service High School	Cultural Activities	Brandi and her two sisters practice their traditional Eskimo dancing, or "yuraq" after school at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.
Brittany Moore	Service High School	Cultural Activities	Brittany and her two sisters practice their traditional Eskimo dancing, or "yuraq" after school at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.
Kelsey Fall	Service High School	Fine Arts	She co-funded and co-organized for six years the only marching band in Anchorage. The award-winning group brings together youth from around the city for an enjoyable, no-cost activity.
Sara Yoon	Service High School	Cultural Activities	Sara performs and teaches young children Korean Cultural dances. She has improved the quality of life in the community by raising money for children's health institutes.
Scottie Su LeClaire	Service High School	Service to Young Children	Scottie worked for the Trailside Discovery Summer Camp as a substitute assistant instructor. She took initiative with her group of kids, listening to them and engaging them with activities.
Service High School Change of Heart Trainers	Service High School	Service to Peers	These teams of students lead day-long workshops designed to improve communication amongst students and staff for a united school community.
Garrison Wilts	South High School	Service to Community	Garrison created and implemented the Energy Saver Project in Anchorage, which helps people reduce their electric consumption, save money on energy bills and protect the environment.
Samantha McNelly	South High School	Lifesaver and Prevention	Samantha spearheaded "Every Fifteen Minutes," a drunk-driving awareness program. The club would not exist at the school without her efforts.
Cai Doran	Steller School	Service to Young Children	Cai participates in an internship for Denali Montessori Elementary School and helped come up with the term "listen learning" which has helped the young students listen and respect their peers.

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Kari Pederson	Steller School	Service to Young Children	Kari participates in an internship for Denali Montessori Elementary School and helped come up with the term "listen learning" which helps the young students learn to be open to what their peers had to say.
Eric Giliam	West High School	Fine arts	Eric is an Alaska Magic Kid who has gone beyond the bounds of magic books to create his own signature, award-winning acts. He also mentors younger Alaska Magic Kids and entertains at community events.
Kris Singleton	West High School	Service to Community	Kris is creating a Cook Inlet Tribal Council Youth Council that will focus on problems like high school dropout rates. He is also a traditional healer-in-training.
Rain Singleton	West High School	Service to Community	Rain does outside work for elders to ensure they do not have to perform heavy lifting. He is also part of the Anchorage Youth Court.