



Youth Achievement Award (YAA) - 2025 Guidelines

Calling all Middle School & High School Students! Here is a chance to win a cash prize with the Hum Sub Youth Achievement Award (YAA). The Hum Sub Youth Achievement Award is inspired by the Buddha's parting message to his disciples "Aapo Deepo Bhava", or "Be a light unto yourself."

The award recognizes youth with outstanding achievements in community service, leadership, research, academics, performing arts, and sports. We are looking for well-rounded students who are ready to take the lead and make a difference in our communities.

This award is open to all Middle & High School students in North Carolina, not just of Asian-Indian descent.

Award

For YAA-2025, cash prizes will be given to top 2 winners in the High School and Middle School categories:

- 1st place winner: \$1000
- 2nd place winner: \$500

Awards will be presented in front of a 18,000-strong crowd at our flagship Hum Sub Diwali event on **Oct 11, 2025**

Application Deadline

Applications, with all required materials and recommendation letter(s), must be submitted by 11:59pm on

Sep 7, 2025

Selection Criteria

- Winners will be carefully chosen by a panel of judges identified by Hum Sub Board members. Their decision is final and cannot be contested.
- What we are looking for:
 - o Outstanding Youth Leadership / Achievement - You played a major leadership role in creating, organizing, and implementing your project or accomplishing your goal. Show us how you impacted the success of your work.
 - o Project / Achievement Impact, Scalability, and Replicability - Is the achievement / project's impact significant? Can your work be used as a model for other individuals?
 - o Community engagement will be measured as per the rubric mentioned below.
 - o Charisma, Personal Commitment, and Trajectory



- What draws you to this work and what personal growth have you achieved as a result? What would winning the Youth Achievement Award mean to you?
- Provide two non-family member references to support your application.
- You may submit up to 5 photographs to support your application
- Provide a **video response** for this topic:

Will AI be a boon or a bane for my generation?

AI has upended a lot of norms in recent times. Some have adopted it as a tool at the workplace to improve productivity, while some have lost a hard earned career to AI Bots. How do you think you will shape your career?

Video Guidelines

- Video should not be more than 50mb
- Video should be in "Landscape Mode"
- Video must be in an acceptable format: wma, mpg, mp4 and mov

All answers are welcome. There is no one ideal solution. We are looking for the most creative answers and evidence of out-of-the-box thinking!

You must complete your own application. Parents, friends, mentors, teachers, etc. must not complete it for you. The submission of resumes, newspaper clippings, etc. is not permitted.

Benefits for High Schoolers

- Winners in 9th and 10th grade will be automatically inducted into our coveted Youth Ambassador (YA) internship program
- Access to leadership training
- Access to leadership initiatives at Hum Sub
- Volunteer hours and recommendation letters to help with college applications

Eligibility

- NC-based applicants only
- Enrolled in Grades 6 to 12 on March 15, 2025
- Participation: Lead or a Key member on high-impacting projects
- Accomplishments should not be prior to Jan 1, 2025
- One entry per person
- Previous winners are not eligible for the award
- Family members of Hum Sub Board members and volunteers are ineligible for this award



Community Engagement Rubric

Definition: Civic (or community) engagement is working to impact change in our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.

	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
Values Diversity of Communities and Cultures	Holds personal and at times restrictive views, but is open to learn and change	Actively participates in community building activities	Takes initiative to create and organize activities for wider community participation
Community Engagement Projects	Participates in various community engagement projects available in the Triangle area	Takes on leadership responsibilities in community engagement projects to manage outcomes	Actively creates programs for community engagement, recruits participants, delegates responsibilities and holds leaders accountable for their areas of responsibility
Charisma, Personal Commitment, and Trajectory	Actively participates in honing personality characteristics to present his/her best self	Actively encourages participation by being a role-model for other youth	Actively mentors other youth in a “teach the teacher” framework