



The 2009 – 2010 Joe Kordick Youth Character Awards

****Award Reception ~ Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 7:00PM ****
Wolf High-Technology Center, IRSC Chastain Campus

About the Awards

The Joe Kordick Youth Character Award honors worthy young people who embody the “Six Pillars of Character” — trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Rather than spotlighting isolated acts of heroism, generosity or academic grades, the Joe Kordick Youth Character Award was conceived to recognize those students whose lives and achievements demonstrate an enduring commitment to any or all of the following qualities associated with good character:

- Uncompromising integrity and courage demonstrated by a willingness to do the right thing despite social pressures or personal risk
- Generosity of spirit and willingness for self-sacrifice in devotion to helping others
- Community service in working for the common good
- Perseverance and inner strength enabling the young person to overcome physical, financial, or other difficulties

Award Information

- High School Award – Each high school award recipient will receive a \$1,000 cash award. The number of awards will be determined by the quality of nominations received and the amount of money available.
- Middle School Award – Each middle school award recipient will receive a \$100 savings bond. The number of awards will be determined by the quality of nominations received and the amount of money available.

Nomination Qualifications

1. All award nominees must be sixth, seventh or eighth grade or graduating twelfth grade students attending a qualified Martin County middle or high school listed below at the time the awards are announced.

2. To qualify, middle and high schools must have an active CHARACTER COUNTS! program and a designated CHARACTER COUNTS! school representative. Qualifying middle and high schools include:
 - a. High Schools: Clark Advanced Learning Center, Jensen Beach High, Martin County High, Sandy Pines, South Fork High, and Stuart Community High.
 - b. Middle Schools: Dr. David L. Anderson Middle, Hidden Oaks Middle, Indiantown Middle, Murray Middle, and Stuart Middle.
3. The award nominee's life and achievements must convey an enduring commitment to one or more of the Six Pillars of Character and the above-mentioned qualities associated with good character.
4. Student contact information, including mailing address and social security number, is required for all award recipients and will be requested at time of selection.
 - a. High school award recipients –To comply with IRS regulations, high school award recipients' names, amount awarded, and social security numbers must be provided to the IRS.
 - b. Middle school award recipients –To purchase U.S. savings bonds, the purchaser (CHARACTER COUNTS!) is required to include the award recipient's name, mailing address and social security number with the application.

Nomination Process

1. Nominations will be accepted from all school and school district staff, faculty, administrators, and students as well as from the community-at-large. Students may not nominate themselves.
2. Nominations will be accepted September 7 through November 9, 2009. **The deadline for submitting nominations is 4:30PM, Monday, November 9, 2009, at the United Way of Martin County office.** Nominations may be mailed, emailed, faxed or hand-delivered to:

Holly Laiben, CHARACTER COUNTS!
c/o United Way of Martin County
50 Kindred Street, Suite 207
Stuart, FL 34994
(fax) 220-7771
hlaiben@unitedwaymartincounty.org

3. The nomination form is attached. Additional nomination forms are also available by contacting Holly Laiben at hlaiben@unitedwaymartincounty.org or 283-4800, ext. 234, or can be downloaded at www.charactercounts.net.

Selection Process

1. Nominations are due Monday, November 9, 2009, 4:30PM.
2. A committee of CHARACTER COUNTS! Advisory Board members ("The Committee") will review nominations and determine which nominees will be invited to apply for the award.

3. *Invitation to Apply* – The award application outlining the essay topic and guidelines will be mailed to selected nominees the week of November 16, 2009. Applications are due Friday, December 11, 2009, 4:30PM.
4. The Committee will review the applications.
5. High School finalists will be interviewed by the committee in mid-January 2010.
6. Middle and High School award recipients will be notified the week of February 8, 2010.
7. Award recipients will be recognized at the Joe Kordick Youth Character Award Ceremony, Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 7:00PM, at the Wolf High Technology Center, Indian River State College Chastain Campus in Stuart.

