



February 15, 2019

Dear School Board Members:

We are excited that student(s) from your community/district have been **nominated** for a Spirit of Youth Award! Spirit of Youth recognition is unique in showing appreciation for acts that typically are *not* formally recognized, such as community service, media, science and environmental efforts, cultural activities, and overcoming challenges. The Association of Alaska School Boards has long partnered with Spirit of Youth to support this recognition effort, and local school boards play an important role in making the recognition of nominees meaningful by presenting the certificates at a public meeting or event.

Enclosed, you will find Spirit of Youth Award **recognition** certificate(s), for a youth or a group of youths in your community/district who have been **nominated** to receive Spirit of Youth awards. Teens who are nominated receive public recognition in their community to celebrate their contributions, thanks to you and other school boards around the state. Out of all the teens recognized, several will be selected for statewide recognition. These annual award winners are notified in January.

We agree that it is important for **nominated** students to receive public recognition in their community for this honor, and we are proud that school boards are the ones to do it. It is a great opportunity for your district to shine the spotlight on the positive things that your students are doing. We suggest that the certificates be presented in a public setting- a major event- such as a school board meeting, a special ceremony or incorporating their presentation into an already existing community event. The idea is to create a sense of purpose and pride in every youth that receives a Spirit of Youth Award recognition certificate.

The process is pretty simple:

- 1) Select a meeting or event at which you can publically recognize the nominated youth(s).
- 2) Have the school board president, mayor, or other adult "Community Member" sign the enclosed certificate(s).
- 3) Arrange for a community leader (school board member, mayor, tribal leader) to present the certificate.
- 4) Make sure the youth(s) will be there.
- 5) Arrange for photos to be taken that you can provide to local media, recipient(s), use in your district and school newsletters.
- 6) Send photos and where and when the recognition took place to Spirit of Youth and AASB and we will share your good news statewide.

1111 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK 99801

☎ (907) 586-1083

📠 (907) 586-2995

✉ aasb@aasb.org

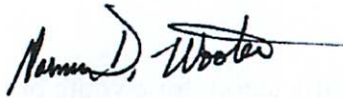
🌐 <http://www.aasb.org>

Thank you for your help. We hope you have a great time presenting the nomination(s) and celebrating the positive contributions of youth. Please also consider using this event to encourage other adults to nominate teens for recognition by Spirit of Youth. The more we recognize and publicize positive contributions by teens, the more we will see.

Please send the photos to Spirit of Youth, info@spiritofyouth.org, PO Box 243721, Anchorage, AK 99524-3721 or to raguilar@asb.org / AASB, 1111 W. 9th St., Juneau, AK 99801.

If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact Karen Zeman, Spirit of Youth Executive Director at (907) 272-2875. Thank you for your time and cooperation!

Sincerely,



Norm Wooten
Executive Director



Lori Grassgreen
Director, Initiative for Community Engagement
(Alaska ICE)

Enclosures:
Recognition certificate(s)
Spirit of Youth information



February 2019

Dear School Board Members,

Congratulations! Youth in your community were nominated for Spirit of Youth recognition. Enclosed are recognition certificates for students or youth groups who were nominated in 2018. 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 hardworking, inspiring teenager or youth group in one of our categories. Spirit of Youth recognition certificates show appreciation for acts that typically are not formally recognized, such as community service, media, science and environmental efforts, cultural activities and overcoming challenges.

I am enclosing a letter of explanation from the Association of Alaska School Boards. This letter will explain what we would like you to do with the recognition certificates. Please note that these certificates are in **recognition of being nominated**. Spirit of Youth will review the nominations and will notify award recipients in March.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at 907-272-2875 or kzeman@spiritofyouth.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Zeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Zeman" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Zeman
Executive Director



SPIRIT OF YOUTH RECOGNIZES

Jena Boelens

Jena is involved in Student Council, has volunteered at the Aniak Youth Center and tutored math. She was a key member in Math Science Expedition and a local project that preserved the stories of local elders.

Lieutenant Governor, State of Alaska

Community Member

Spirit of Youth



A Campaign to Recognize Alaska's Teens



SPIRIT OF YOUTH RECOGNIZES

Aniak Jr/Sr High School Student Council

The Aniak Jr/Sr High School Student Council embraces their culture and focuses on recognition of those that have made it possible. The student council plans events, networks with local businesses, elders and VIPs to ensure events run smoothly.

Lieutenant Governor, State of Alaska

Community Member

Spirit of Youth



A Campaign to Recognize Alaska's Teens