

Application Opens
January 16, 2023
No Idea is Too Big or Too Small

Application Due
February 13, 2023
By 12:00 pm (noon)

YIP Project Showcase
February 16, 2023
Share Your Idea

2023 Contest Guidelines

Keith County Foundation Fund

Youth Inspired Philanthropy Contest

What is this? The Youth Inspired Philanthropy Contest (YIP) is an exciting opportunity for youth and young adults to use their creativity, compassion, and love of their community to make a difference. We want young people from 3rd grade through 12th grade to ask themselves this question:

How can I make a difference in my community?

Applicants will submit their best ideas to help change the world, right here in their own backyards. **Contest winners will receive up to \$1000 to implement their projects.**

What do you mean “make a difference?”

We are looking for projects that help our community grow and change for the better and are “philanthropic” in nature.

Philanthropy is a big word, but it can be easily understood as “giving of your time, talents, and treasure for the benefit of all.” Here are some questions to help you think about ways to make things better in your community:

- What do I care about?
- How can my caring help others?
- What in my community needs fixing?
- What would make my community a better place?

Your idea could be something you’ve been thinking about for a while or a totally random spark of inspiration – as long as it benefits others.

You could save something, create something, or change something. Tell us about your best idea for making a difference! We’re looking for ideas that:

- Have a positive impact on the community
- Can be completed by November 1, 2023
- Directly benefits Keith County, Nebraska
- Are charitable in nature (which means it must focus on serving the public interest or common good)
- Involves youth in the project work.

Do I have to do this by myself?

Not unless you want to! You can do a project on your own, with friends, or as part of a class, club, or group. The contest has three different age-based categories for youth, so find the one that works for you.

See what age group you fit in:

Grade Based Categories

3rd - 5th Grades

6th - 8th Grades

9th - 12th Grades

****If the group has various ages of youth, the age group is determined by the age of the oldest person participating.**

How do I complete an application?

There are a few things that **MUST** be turned in with your application and there are a few additional pieces that may help “sell” your idea to the selection committee and give them a better sense of what you are trying to accomplish. The more you can demonstrate the details of your project and its impact in the community, the better your chances are of being selected.

Required Application Materials:

- **Contest Application** (all sections must be completed – including a media release for EACH student that participates in your group.)
- **Project Display** (Posters, photos, display boards, sketches, flow charts, impact statements, statistics, sample project and anything else that helps showcase your project) We will supply your poster presentation board.

When is the application available for the contest?

The application for the YIP Contest is available beginning January 16, 2023. Applications and information can be found on the keithcountyfoundation.org website. Go to *Grants & Youth* and click on *YIP Contest*.

What do I do with my contest application and display once they are done?

February 13, Monday – Application Submission Deadline. Online project applications will be submitted by noon via the keithcountyfoundation.org website application. Hard copies are acceptable. Drop hard copies off at the KCFF office in the Ogallala Pinnacle Bank.

February 16, Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 Project Drop Off at the Kathleen Lute Public Library

From 3:00-5:00 Project Drop Off – Drop off your project where a committee member will check through your application with you and then escort you to a table where you can set up your project display for the judging that will take place between 5:00 – 6:00.

February 16, Thursday: 5:00 – 6:00 YIP Showcase
(Kathleen Lute Public Library)

From 5:00 – 6:00 YIP Showcase (Public project viewing and committee judging)
We invite your family and friends to hear you speak about your project and share your poster.

Each project must have at least one representative attend, but we encourage all group members participating in the contest to attend. The Selection Committee will interview and judge the projects during your presentation.

Winners will be announced after all projects are presented.

Cookies and drink will follow winner announcement.

OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there a way I can get help with my application?

You can get help by emailing us at info@keithcountyfoundation.org with any questions you might have about the contest or application process. Please put the **YIP Contest in the subject line**. You can also get help by calling or emailing our Project Coordinators, Barb Jeffres - (308) 289-5392 or Mary Jensen - (308) 289-4595.

In addition, the YIP Contest has a group of community mentors who will work with students to put their application packets, budgets, and displays together. So, if you need help figuring out an idea, putting together a budget, designing displays, or completing your application packet they are there for you!

Why should I submit a video, poster, or other display items?

Visual aids such as videos, posters, or displays help our selection committee learn more about your project and the impact that it can have on the community. Use the visuals to sell your idea and tell us why it should be selected for funding. The projects that include detailed visual aids with their application submissions are more likely to be chosen as contest winners.

What if I don't have access to video equipment?

Videos are not required; it is just an idea for you to consider that may help you better tell your story.

Do I have to make sure my project is approved by the community organization or group that it benefits?

YES! All projects that directly impact a club, group, or organization MUST have approval from those organizations affected by the project for your application to be considered for the contest. Not having permission to move forward with your project, should it be selected as a contest winner, will disqualify your application.

Can my project be a fundraising event?

Yes! Fundraising is an important segment of philanthropy that helps to make a lot of organizations and projects a reality.

Who decides which projects receive funding?

The YIP Contest has a Selection Committee that will be reviewing all applications.

What happens if my idea is funded?

The committee will schedule a time to meet with you and your mentor at the Kathleen Lute Public Library. Your requested money to complete your project will be given at that time. Each project must have at least one representative present. Each classroom or large group project should select no more than 2-4 representatives to attend. It is also important that a parent or adult attends with you. We will review your project timeline and offer support, assistance, and advice as you need it. We will check in with you on a regular basis and will assist you in working with the YIP Committee on the financial pieces of your project. We will explain this in more detail and provide you with a chance to meet your mentors if your project receives funding. Please feel free to ask questions if it is unclear.

Do I have to report back to the YIP Committee after my project is over?

You will provide updates to the YIP Committee on your project's progress. When your project is completed, you will provide a final report. At that time, we will ask you to answer a few questions about your project and how it went. We will also ask you to submit some pictures. So, make sure to take pictures as you work on your project.

We will wrap up the year with a final YIP Project Celebration in November, 2023. All funded projects will be expected to report on their success and the impact their project had. This will be the final step of your project. Details on the Celebration event will be announced at the YIP Kickoff event.

What is the timeline for completing my project?

After February 16, you have until November 1, 2023, to complete your project.

Contact Information for the Youth Inspired Philanthropy Contest:

YIP Contest, PO Box 104 Ogallala, NE 69153, or
Email us at: info@keithcountyfoundation.org
(In the subject line please put the YIP Contest
so that your questions can be forwarded to Mary or Barb. Thank you!)

Project Chairs:

Mary Jensen: 308-289-4595 Barb Jeffres: 308-289-5392
Liaison for KCFF: Angie Kolste: 308-289-5836

