

2021 Contest Guidelines

Keith County Foundation Fund

Youth Philanthropy Contest

What is this? The Youth Philanthropy Contest 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, 2022
- 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, and anything else that helps showcase your project)

Optional Things to Include with Your Application (to give you a better chance for funding):

- YouTube Video (please see Other Frequently Asked Questions for instructions on submission)
- Examples or prototypes of your project if it is a product of some kind. Projects that include good displays with their application submissions are more likely to be chosen as contest winners.

When is the application available for the contest?

The application for the Youth Philanthropy Contest is available beginning November 15, 2021. Applications and information can be found on the keithcountyfoundation.org site. Go to Grants and Youth and click on Youth Philanthropy Contest.

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

Project applications and displays can be dropped off at the Petrified Wood Gallery, 418 East 1st Street, Ogallala, Nebraska, on the following date:

Friday, January 28, 2022 from 3:00 - 5:00

When you drop off your projects, a committee member will check through all your paperwork and then escort you to a table where you can set up your project display for judging. The Selection Committee will interview and judge the projects on Saturday between 10:30 - 11:30.

When do you announce the winners?

Winners will be announced at the Youth Contest Project Showcase on **January 29, 2022 at the Petrified Wood Gallery**. Each project must have at least **one representative attend the Public Project Viewing and Youth Contest Showcase**, but we encourage all group members participating in the contest to attend. Everyone is invited to also bring their family and friends. Light snacks and beverages will be served and everyone will have a chance to look at the displays and listen to a short program.

Important Dates to Remember: (all held at the Petrified Wood Gallery)

January 28, 2022 (3:00pm – 5:00 pm) – Project Drop-off

January 29 (10:30am – 11:30am) – Student interviews and judging

January 29 (3:30 pm – 4:00pm) – Public Project Viewing

January 29 (4:00pm – 5:00pm) – Youth Contest Showcase (winners will be announced)

February 15 (6:00pm – 7:00pm) – Project Kickoff Celebration with Pizza

At the Project Kick Off Celebration there will be a review of guidelines, timelines, and agreements regarding the implementation of their project. Mentors will be paired at this time (if needed) to help participants complete their project. They will offer support, assistance, and advice as needed.

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 Youth Philanthropy 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 Youth Philanthropy 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.

Are there any guidelines for my video?

Your video must be 2 minutes or less in length, be appropriate to your project, be in English, and be clear, focused and audible. You must also have a completed media release (see application form) for all identifiable individuals (or their parent or guardian if they are under 18) in your video. Videos must be submitted via [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

To get started uploading videos on YouTube, follow the steps below:

1. Sign into YouTube (you must create an account if you don't already have one)
2. Select the video you'd like to upload from your computer.

Once the upload is completed, copy the YouTube link onto your application. Make sure you double check the link for accuracy. When you upload a video, by default it is set as a "Public" video, which means that anybody can view it. You can easily change the privacy settings while you're uploading the video in the "Privacy Settings" section.

Or, if you've already uploaded the video, you can change the privacy settings by following the steps below:

1. Visit your Video Manager.
2. Find the video you'd like to change, and then click the Edit button.
3. In the "Privacy Settings" drop-down menu, select Public or Unlisted.
4. Click Save changes.

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. If you choose to do a project that is a fundraiser, you must complete the Fundraiser Supplemental Application page found in the 5 of 6 application.

Who decides which projects receive funding?

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

What happens if my idea is funded?

If you are a contest winner, the first step will be to attend our Project Kickoff Pizza Party on February 15th at the Petrified Wood Gallery. 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 project timelines and complete an agreement form regarding the implementation of your project. You will be paired with a mentor who will help you to complete your project by offering support, assistance, and advice as you need it. They will check in with you on a regular basis and will assist you in working with the Youth Philanthropy Committee on financial pieces of your project. We will explain this in more detail and provide you 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 Youth Philanthropy Committee after my project is over?

You will provide updates to the Youth Philanthropy 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 Youth Project Celebration in November 2022. 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 Kickoff event.

What is the timeline for completing my project?

You have until November 1, 2022 to complete your project.

Contact Information for the Youth Philanthropy Contest:

Youth Philanthropy Contest PO Box 104 Ogallala, NE 69153 or Email us at:
info@keithcountyfoundation.org

(In the subject line please put the Youth Philanthropy 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

Stay up to date on the youth contest by visiting our website at: www.keithcountyfoundation.org
and click on Grants and Youth

