

Sample Nomination for the Governor's Service Awards

Each year, the Governor's Office on Service & Volunteerism accepts nominations for the Governor's Service Awards. These awards recognize extraordinary individual volunteers and volunteer groups in a variety of categories that make a significant impact in their communities each year. Information about the 2016 nomination guidelines may be found at [our website](#). Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on June 1, 2016.

The information provided below is a sample only; it does not represent any actual person or organization (although several agencies mentioned are real). It is meant to illustrate several key qualities of a strong nomination. Note that the sample provides all requested information, it vividly describes the youth service and volunteers, and it provides specific accomplishments in 2015. The sample also provides a clear case for what is extraordinary about this group and why these volunteers should receive special recognition from the Governor's Office.

Good luck with your nomination!

Sample – Maryland Governor's Service Awards Nomination Form:

1. NOMINATOR:

Jane Smith, Director of Charles County Food Sunday
Charles County Food Sunday
78 Charles Street
La Plata, MD 20646
301-555-1234
jsmith@ccfs.org

RELATIONSHIP TO NOMINEE: Girl Power Volunteer Project Partner

2. NOMINEE:

Girl Power in Southern Maryland
Contact Person: Effie Bowers, Girl Power Advisor
123 La Plata Drive
La Plata, MD 20646
301-555-5678
ebowers@gp.org

COUNTY WHERE NOMINEE VOLUNTEERS:

Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's

3. AWARD CATEGORY:

Group/Team

4. WHEN DID THE NOMINEE BEGIN VOLUNTEERING/WHEN WAS THE GROUP CREATED?

06/12/2009

5. PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE NOMINEE/GROUP.

Created in 2009, Girl Power (GP) is a youth service program that engages 40 girls, ages 11 – 14, in intensive volunteerism and leadership development over a year-long program. To best meet local human and environmental needs in southern Maryland, GP partners with five nonprofits: Charles County Food Sunday, Southern Maryland Humane Society, Calvert Hospice, VFW Post 132's Homeless Veterans Outreach in Calvert County, and the Greenwell Foundation. GP youth work with therapy horses and children with disabilities, assemble food packages for low-income families, make and deliver emergency kits for homeless veterans, visit hospice patients, care for abandoned and abused animals, and provide presentations on the humane treatment of animals.

6. WHAT MOTIVATED THE NOMINEE TO VOLUNTEER/WHY WAS THE GROUP CREATED?

GP was created to develop youth leadership through service. Each year, Charles County Public Schools identifies girls with special needs who are strong candidates for GP, and they are invited to participate in the program. These girls, who have been stigmatized since they entered school because of their physical disability, dyslexia or other learning disability, or emotional problems, are supported by a dedicated team of eight adult volunteers and advisors during the one-year program. A key goal for GP is to provide these young women with opportunities to shine – to be leaders and to be heroes. To foster this, GP provides weekly leadership circles and ongoing service projects. The leadership circles meet on Wednesdays and include lectures and activities that help youth identify their strengths and goals for the future, build communication skills, and reflect on the importance and power of volunteerism. Service projects occur on Saturdays at five community agencies throughout the year.

7. WHAT DID THE NOMINEE ACCOMPLISH IN 2015 (OR LONGER IF A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT NOMINEE)?

Girl Power (GP) has engaged 150 volunteers and built a strong network of young women in southern Maryland. GP is a volunteer program; youth participants do not receive academic credit for their volunteerism. In 2015, GP helped 50 children with disabilities, assembled food packages for 350 families, delivered 250 emergency kits to veterans, visited 25 hospice patients, cared for 75 animals, and gave 30 presentations on the humane treatment of animals to elementary students. Over the course of the year, the 40 girls and the additional volunteers who participated in the program served over 300 hours.

8. PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE NOMINEE/GROUP.

There are several reasons why GP's volunteer service is extraordinary: GP provides extraordinary service and demonstrates a high level of generosity in their work. They go above and beyond traditional youth volunteering in the scope of their service – they help senior citizens, veterans, abused animals, and more across southern Maryland. GP has a track record of meaningful results for the program's at-risk youth participants and the communities they served in 2015 and since the program's inception. GP makes a sustained commitment by volunteering each week over a one-year program. GP is a perfect fit with the Governor's Service Awards, since the leadership and strength the girls embody represent the power of young people to act selflessly and make Maryland a stronger and more compassionate state. Finally, GP has never received recognition of their program or volunteerism outside of the school system and partner agencies.