



Chair: Karen Ash
Box 136, Belmont NY 14813
Phone: 585-610-4321

Email: info@acdcny.org
Web: acdcny.org
FB: Allegany County Democratic Committee

2026 Allegany County Democrat Committee Student Civic Engagement Award

School Counselors:

The Allegany County Democrat Committee is pleased to announce our annual student award for 2026, to recognize student civic engagement and its effect on community life.

This application should be made available to **all 11th and 12th grade public school students who reside, or attend school, in Allegany County NY.**

We respectfully request your assistance in distributing the attached award information to eligible students.

- Program Overview and Application Form
- Consent and Photo/Video Release Form

We further request your help in collecting award submissions and will coordinate with you to retrieve them shortly after the **application deadline of April 1, 2026.**

We hope many of your students will participate in the application process. Any questions that arise may be addressed to info@acdcny.org

Thank you most sincerely!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Ash'.

Karen Ash, Chair
Allegany County Democratic Committee



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The Allegany County Democratic Committee (the Committee) is a political organization that actively seeks to improve the quality of life for Allegany County residents. We stand for justice, equality, and equal opportunity. We honor the strength and understanding that comes from diversity. We abhor discrimination in all its forms.

We believe government’s top priority should be addressing the needs and concerns of its constituents, with special attention paid to those who are struggling. However, we understand that government cannot provide 100% of the support needed and that the efforts of civic organizations help fill the gap.

“Serving our Community” is our motto! In this spirit, we invite you to apply for a **\$500.00 Civic Engagement Award**. In creating this award, the Committee’s aim is to recognize and celebrate student participation in community-based activities that (1) promote civic betterment and that (2) demonstrate the Committee’s values of **social and economic justice, equality, diversity, and helping the less fortunate among us**. We hope to encourage and expand civic engagement by our county’s youth, to build toward a more compassionate and just society.

Eligibility:

This opportunity is open to all 11th and 12th grade students residing or attending school in Allegany County, NY.

Application Criteria:

- 1) Applicants must submit either
 - a. an original, double-spaced, typewritten essay of between 300 and 500 words, or...
 - b. an original video not to exceed three minutes in length

Your submission should describe in detail how you have engaged in your community in ways that express the democratic values of the Committee and that clearly show how community life has been improved as a result (as stated above).

- 2) In addition, all submissions must include one or more letters of support by an adult who can attest to your participation in the activities described in your application. (Letters written by relatives of the applicant will not be accepted.)



Allegany County Democratic Committee *“Serving our Community”*

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Judging the Award:

Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- 1) Originality and clarity
- 2) Community involvement or engagement
- 3) Benefit to the community
- 4) Explicitly expressing the Committee’s democratic values

Deadline for Submissions:

All applications, including a cover letter with applicant information complete and release form signed, may be submitted to your Guidance Counselor on or before April 1, 2026. The Committee, at its discretion, may retain all submitted materials and these will become property of the Committee.

Announcing the Winner:

The Committee will name the winner by April 30 and present the award at a reception in mid-May.

Representation and Warranties:

Participants represent and warrant that the content submitted does not or will not violate or infringe upon the intellectual property rights or other rights of a third party, and that entries do not violate any applicable laws. Furthermore, all entry materials (including written, audible, or visual content) must be free of obscene, defamatory, libelous, offensive, or hate speech, or any expression that may be deemed otherwise objectionable.

Consent and Rules:

- a) By applying for this award, you grant the Committee permission to use any or all of the submitted materials, along with your name, voice, image, photograph or likeness, to promote the award publicly via news, website, email, and social media outlets.
- b) All entrants along with their parent or guardian will sign a consent release form to attest to the above.
- c) By applying for this award, you agree to be bound by the decision of the Committee and its judges.
- d) Members, officers, or immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, or anyone living in the same household) of the Committee are not eligible to apply.



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APPLICANT Consent and Photo/Video Release Form

Name of Applicant: _____

By applying for this award, you grant the Committee permission to use any or all of the submitted materials, along with your name, voice, image, photograph or likeness, to promote the award publicly via news, website, email, and social media outlets.

I, _____ applicant aged 18 or above OR

I, _____ parent/guardian of the minor child named below

hereby grant permission to the Allegany County Democratic Committee to publish photos/images/videos including the name of the applicant in press releases and/or other materials either in print or electronic format for purposes deemed appropriate by the Allegany County Democrat Committee.

I am signing this release form with the knowledge of any photos/images/videos posted electronically and in press releases can be downloaded and reprinted by news organizations, individuals and others including print, electronic, and broadcast media and I, therefore, release the Allegany County Democrat Committee from any liability arising from the use of the applicant’s photos/images/videos in web postings.

Name of Applicant _____ Age: _____

Signature of Applicant _____

OR

Name of Parent / Guardian _____

Signature of Parent / Guardian _____

I further understand that if I wish to rescind this agreement, I may do so at any time by sending a letter to the Allegany County Democrat Committee. I further understand that any already published photos/images/videos cannot be recalled. The requested recission will take effect upon receipt of the notification.

Date: _____ Initials: _____