



NYS PTA Susanne Smoller Commitment to Advocacy Youth Award



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

The **Susanne Smoller Commitment to Advocacy Youth Award** will be given to one high school senior to encourage them to pursue post-secondary education or training and to continue their active engagement in advocacy in the areas of HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ+ community, mental health, social justice or substance use.

The application for this prestigious award is open to senior students:

1. Who are on track to graduate by August 2027 from a New York State high school/BOCES where there is a PTA/PTSA/SEPTA. The unit must be in **good standing** in order for the student to be considered (a centralized PTA unit with a high school component is acceptable). Please be sure your Unit/Council Bylaws, Insurance, Membership, IRS status, and Officers are up-to-date.
2. Who have post-secondary and/or career aspirations; and
3. Who demonstrate a commitment to and active engagement in advocacy related to issues of HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ+ community, mental health, social justice or substance use.

This application, including a minimum of one letter of recommendation, must be printed, mailed and postmarked by **November 15, 2026**, for this coming year's award, to be awarded February 2027.

Please mail all required material to: NYS PTA, One Wembley Court, Albany, NY 12205.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	☐	Bylaws	☐	IRS Status
	☐	Insurance	☐	Officers
	☐	Membership		

Student Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Student Telephone (Cell) _____ Student Telephone (Home) _____

Student Email _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

Address (if different than student) _____

Parent Telephone (Cell) _____ Parent Telephone (Home) _____

Parent Email _____

School of Record _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of School Counselor _____

School Counselor Email _____

School Counselor Phone Number _____

Name of person providing statement or letter of recommendation:

Email address for person providing letter of recommendation:

Phone number for person providing letter of recommendation:

PTA Name affiliated with your school (add unit code if known):

Student Submission

Please share how you have demonstrated your commitment to and active engagement in advocacy related to issues of HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ+ community, mental health, social justice, or substance use. (Please limit your responses to 500 words or less.)

[illegible]

Please share your post-secondary or career aspirations.

NYS PTA publishes photographs, award presentations, press releases and other materials, both in print and on the Internet, where images, names and schools of the Susanne Smoller Commitment to Advocacy Youth Award winner are published.

Please indicate if student/guardian will opt-out of having the applicant’s photo, name or school disclosed from the media information stated above.

- ☐ Approved to use photo, name or school
- ☐ Opt-out