

Key Details of the Volunteer Award

Important Things to Know

- This contest is open to **any** prolife high school student in Michigan.
- The award is given solely based on volunteer work, leadership shown, and self-motivation shown through activities and involvement.
- **All activities and volunteer work must be connected to the affiliate in some way.** Volunteer work and activities for outside organizations will **not** count.
- Once your winner is chosen, the application and list of volunteer work sent to the state office **must include a RLM affiliate representative's signature** to ensure all volunteer work and activities are accurate. If multiple pages are used, all must include a signature.
- When submitting your first-place student to the state office, **you must include a letter of recommendation for the selected student.** This helps the state committee with the selection process by getting a better understanding of the student's character, self-motivation, and leadership skills.
- **Students can not win back-to-back years.** They can apply the next year if they do not win first, second, or third place. If a freshman wins, they can reapply as a junior. This is to prevent students from winning multiple times.
- Your local contest does not need to have three winners, if you have a smaller affiliate you can have one winner. If you are a larger affiliate, we encourage you to have multiple winners, but you can only send one to the state contest. Prizes at the local level are up to the affiliate but we recommend a certificate for the student(s) along with \$100, \$50, and \$25 per placement.

Contest Announcements, Committee Suggestions, and Deadlines

- Announce the Volunteer Award to your youth and students for life groups as soon as possible. Set a deadline for their application submission and make sure any interested students know it.
- You can choose a committee to decide on a nomination. An odd number of members is best to break any ties. Committee members should generally not be immediate relatives of any students who applied. The committee recommends one student of theirs to compete at the state level.
- **Submit your nomination for the 2024 High School Volunteers of the Year to the State Office by Friday, August 2, 2024.**



Planning and Promoting the High School Volunteer Award

1. Appoint a volunteer in your affiliate to oversee the Award. This volunteer can announce the contest to youth, promote it, and help recruit committee members to decide on a nomination. This volunteer can also encourage more active youth involvement in your affiliate while promoting the contest. The deadline is in August to encourage student involvement and activity in the summer when school is not in session.
2. Announce the contest early. Since the requirements are based on prolife activity and involvement, you can create an incentive for students to become prolife volunteers. One of the requirements is that their volunteer work is specifically with the affiliate (or state organization), so this is an excellent opportunity to gain active volunteers.
3. Contact local teachers. Teachers that typically send contestants if you sponsor an oratory contest are good places to start. Some high schools have community service requirements, so this is an opportunity to entice students to your programs with an added bonus.
4. Develop a flyer and social media post announcing the contest. Post it in schools, churches and areas/businesses where youth spend time. Post it on your social media accounts if you have any for your affiliate. Make sure to include the deadline and contact information on any materials promoting the contest. Flyers and social media graphics will be posted on our website for affiliates to use.
5. Many churches have youth group leaders or youth pastors. Contact the leaders/pastors and explain the worth of volunteering with your affiliate. Ask them to announce it at their meetings or make volunteering with your affiliate a regular activity or ask them if their students would want to volunteer at a specific event so the students can see how fun it is and want to come back!
6. Contact home-school groups. Many home-school students typically have local networks or facilities for extra-curricular activities. Let the parents know of the contest, and ask to have information about the Volunteer Award included in a home-school network email.

If you have any questions about the High School Volunteers of the Year, you can contact Jazlyn Bailey at the Right to Life of Michigan State Office at (616) 532-2300, or by email at jbailey@rtl.org

