

What Reviewers Want:

Insights on the Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award



Thursday, November 10, 2016
Afterschool Alliance

Agenda

- Award overview
- Top 5 tips
- Common questions
- What to remember
- Q&A

Award Overview

Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award

Overview

- Partnership with the Dollar General Literacy Foundation
 - Third year running
 - Literacy is central theme
 - Areas of focus within literacy change annually
-

Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award

*This year:
Focus on students who are
English language learners*

| | Award Winner | Runner-Up |
|---|--------------|-----------|
| Number of awards | 1 | 3-4 |
| \$10,000 award | X | |
| Presented award at <i>Afterschool for All Challenge</i> | X | |
| Present at the <i>Afterschool for All Challenge</i> | X | X |
| Featured in issue brief | X | X |
| Present at national conferences | X | X |
| Present on Afterschool Alliance webinars | X | X |

**Nominations
open:**

Now

**Nominations
close:**

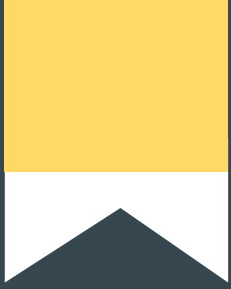
Dec. 16, 2016

**Winner
announced:**

June 2017

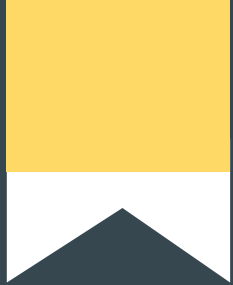


Top 5 Tips



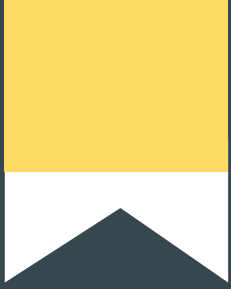
Tip #1 - All questions have a purpose.

- Use each open-ended question as an opportunity to explain the value of your program
- Pay attention to the prompts



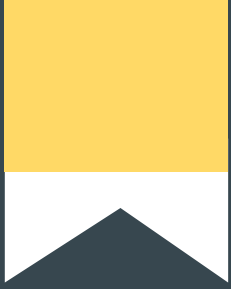
Please describe the literacy-specific activities offered and services provided by the nominated program to support English language learner students.

- *What is the program doing to help students--specifically English language learner students--develop literacy skills...?*
- *How are the literacy supports for the program's English language learner students different or the same as those for other students in the program?*
- *How are the program's practices evidence-based and how do they build off of known promising practices in the afterschool community?*



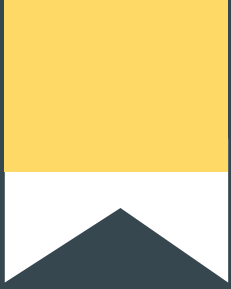
Tip #2 - Be an advocate.

- Share how the program is helping to meet the needs of its community
- Think about ways to differentiate yourself
- Demonstrate the program's impact through quantitative and/or qualitative data



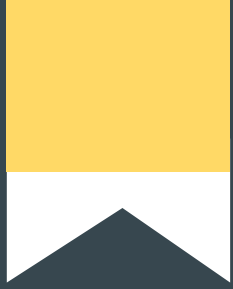
Tip #3 - Don't shy away from details.

- Details matter!
- Help give reviewers a complete and concrete picture of your program
- Don't assume



Tip #4 - Think about relevancy.

- Always keep the theme and the specific area of focus in mind when answering questions



Tip #5- Read, re-read, have someone else read, and then read again.

- Be clear in your answers
- Reviewers notice spelling and grammatical errors
- Ask someone outside of your organization to review your nomination form

Common Questions

Common Questions

How many awards will be given?

Only 1 \$10,000 award winner.

Are programs that have not yet started eligible?

Short answer, yes. Longer answer, it's complicated.

Can you submit multiple nomination forms for different programs under the same organization?

Yes. However, there are a few things to consider.

The award is called the Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award, but are other types of out-of-school time programs eligible?

Yes, before school, afterschool and summer learning programs are eligible. However, again, there are a few things to know.

What to Remember

What to Remember

Due date: Nominations must be submitted by **Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

Draft, edit and review: Download the nomination form and **review the questions and draft your answers first** before filling out the nomination form online.

Data matters: The strongest nomination forms **include program data.**

Don't assume: The reviewers will be unfamiliar with your program. Provide **detailed information** that will help reviewers gain a stronger understanding of the supports your program provides to your students.

Thank you!

Have more questions?

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