



# Ridge High School Community Service Award



Ridge High School will recognize and reward the most creative and meaningful community service project engaged in by a student club, team, or group related to this year's designated theme, for their community service efforts. The project will be recognized at Senior Awards Night and the most successful student group will receive a \$2400 award; 75% of which the group will donate to the service recipient and 25% of which will benefit the student organization or group that implemented the project. Guidelines and evaluation criteria are detailed below. This year's award will be sponsored by the Bernards Township Education Foundation.

## ***2012 Theme: Helping Children***

### ***Community Service Award Objective:***

- ▶ To unite Ridge High School around a common cause.
- ▶ To promote direct service to a community in need.
- ▶ To serve that community in an innovative, creative and meaningful way.

### ***Guidelines/Rules:***

- The project must be student-run.
- Groups must be comprised of a minimum of three (3) students, who all attend Ridge High School and will participate in this service project. Students may work in informal groups, but must have a designated supervisor (parent or teacher) who can verify the project hours.
- Projects must meet the timeline, outlined below, in order to be considered for the award. Any late entries will not be eligible for the award, although the project itself may still be included in a collection of community service projects publicizing the great work done by the student body.
- To be eligible, projects require the prior approval of the Community Service Award Panel (see attached form).
- The project must promote active service in the community and fulfill this year's theme. Fundraising may be used only to generate any needed seed money.
- The project can be a completely new idea, or it could build upon an existing project that, through this initiative, raises the project to a new level.
- A significant portion of the service must occur between February – May, 2012.
- The Project Proposal and the Project Reflection must be submitted to Kristin Fox, Room 613a Ridge High School (kfox@bernardsboe.com)

### ***Timeline:***

- Project Proposals will be accepted anytime until **2/27/12** at 5pm.
- The Community Service Award Panel will promptly review proposals as received and notify each group of its eligibility.
- The Community Service Award Panel will contact service project recipients in April, 2012 for an update.

- Project Reflection is due to panel by **5/24/12 (see attached form)**.
- Community Service Award Panel will select the winning group on **5/29/12**.
- The winning group will be notified on **5/30/12**.
- Award will be given on Senior Awards Night at RHS on **6/1/12**.

***Evaluation Criteria:***

- Overall impact
  - Did the project make a meaningful and notable difference to the recipient?
  - Does the recipient's testimony speak to the impact it had on them?
- Creativity
  - How unique and creative is the idea itself?
  - If an existing project, did it take it to a higher level of creativity?
  - How creative was the group in generating the necessary resources for the project?
- Group Effort
  - Was the project well coordinated and student run?
  - How effectively did the group of students work together to organize and implement the project?
- Challenges
  - How effectively was the group able to overcome challenges faced in the project implementation?
- Time Commitment
  - How much time was spent in the development and administration of the project?
  - Did a significant portion of the service occur between February –May, 2012?

***Judging Process:***

The Community Service Award Panel will consist of at least 5 judges, consisting of students, faculty, administration, and the Bernards Township Educational Foundation. They will review the project reflections, rate them using the above evaluation criteria and select a winner.

***Award:***

The winning project will be recognized at Senior Awards Night and the most successful student group will receive a \$2400 award. The award will be divided as follows:

- 75% of the award will be donated to the recipient of the service project in the student group's name. For example, if the service project helps children through the Somerset County YMCA, then \$1800.00 will be donated to the Somerset County YMCA.
- The remaining portion of the award will be allocated as follows:
  - The student organization (club or athletic team) that implemented the project will receive 25% of the award. For example, if the Wrestling Team wins the award, then the Wrestling Team will receive \$600.00.
  - OR
  - An informal group of students will receive savings bonds, one for each person, totaling \$600.00. For example, if four students work together on a project, they will each receive a \$150.00 savings bond.