



Pumpkin Fest Youth Partnership Award

The Pumpkin Fest Youth Partnership Award was created to formally recognize companies or organizations that actively involve youth as resources, demonstrate they value youth, provide adult role models and seek out the creative skills of young people in the Pumpkin Fest float making process.

How to get started:

Interested companies/organizations are encouraged to solicit youth from community organizations (see attached list for suggestions). If you need assistance finding youth groups to partner with, please contact DeKalb County KEYS.

Tips for involving youth:

Involve youth from the beginning! Invite them to help plan the design of your float.

- Being creative can be fun, and helps young people improve basic and advanced thinking skills. Performing and creating works of art helps young people develop cognition (intellectual comprehension), cultural understanding, communication, and creativity. Learning that's fun and worthwhile—what could be better?

Provide youth with hands-on learning opportunities.

- Research shows when young people have useful roles they feel good about themselves and their future, do better in school, and get into less trouble. Take time to show your youth partners how to use power tools and all of the other skills needed to build the float. Allow them to actively contribute to the construction of the float, from start to finish!

Celebrate the success of your partnership; involve everyone in some way during the parade.

- Chances are, at the end of this process, you'll have built much more than just a float. Hopefully, you will have built positive friendships, a sense of achievement, high regard for service to others, community pride, sense of purpose, feelings of belonging, and positive self esteem.

Judging:

- DeKalb County KEYS will award first, second, and third prizes to participating companies or organizations.
- Winners will be selected based on the degree to which youth were involved in creating their parade float. **In order to be eligible for a prize, participating companies/organizations must complete the attached questionnaire and return to DeKalb County KEYS by: October 23rd**
- DeKalb County KEYS will publicly recognize all companies/organizations that take the initiative to partner with youth on their Pumpkin Fest float.



Suggested agencies to contact for youth recruitment:

Kishwaukee Family YMCA
Youth Services Bureau
Oscar (Sycamore Elementary Schools)
Spartan Reach (Sycamore Middle School)
DeKalb School District
DCP/SAFE
Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Return application to:

Mary Hess
Kishwaukee Family YMCA & DeKalb County KEYS
2500 West Bethany Road
DeKalb, IL 60115

Questions?

Mary Hess
815.756.9577 (ext. 38)
mhess@kishymca.org

For information about KEYS visit

www.dekalbcountykeys.org



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Please answer the following questions and return to DeKalb County KEYS by Friday, October 23rd.

How did you recruit youth to assist with your parade float? _____

To what degree were youth involved in the design of your float? _____

What percentage of time were youth present during float construction? _____

What types of hands – on experiences did youth engage in? _____

Tell us about some of the unique interactions that took place between adults and youth, bonds that were formed, funny moments, learning experiences, etc. _____



Did you have any challenges? How did overcome them? _____

Summarize what youth gained from this experience. _____

Summarize what adults gained from this experience. _____
