

# YOUTH CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Soroptimist International of the Americas established the *Youth Citizenship Award* (YCA) in 1961 to recognize outstanding contributions made by young people to their homes, schools, communities, countries and the world. These are merit awards and are not based on academic achievement. The YCA program underscores Soroptimist's commitment to young people--the leaders of the future.

## ELIGIBILITY

Guidelines for choosing a *Youth Citizenship Awards* recipient include the following:

1. The applicant must be a student enrolled in the last two years of a public or private high school (or its equivalent) in a country within the territorial limits of Soroptimist International of the Americas. Clubs outside the USA and Canada are authorized to consider students in the last two years of preparatory school.
2. The applicant must not have reached his/her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday prior to July 1 of the awards year.
3. The applicant has demonstrated leadership qualities, and has taken an active part in service to the home, school, or community.
4. The applicant shows characteristics of integrity and responsibility in his/her commitment to family and community.

*Soroptimists, employees of the Soroptimist organization, and the immediate families of both are ineligible. Previous winners of the award are also ineligible.*

## FUNDING FOR THE YCA PROGRAM

The *Youth Citizenship Awards* Program is funded by individual clubs.

Clubs may decide whether they will recognize their winner with monetary or other awards (examples: certificates of achievement, non-monetary prizes).