



## **2024 Peer Leader Award Information**

Matchstick Consulting, in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority, will be awarding up to 10 exceptional young people with a prize of \$1,000 each. The purpose of the award is to celebrate and elevate students and young people working to build a community of strength by increasing connections, being agents of positive change, and spreading hope, help and strength either through Sources of Strength programming or other youth-led initiatives focusing on suicide prevention or mental health promotion.

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### **Who is eligible for the Peer Leader Award?**

- Must be a student homeschooled, attending middle school, attending high school, or enrolled in an undergraduate college or university program participating in a Sources of Strength Program
- A member of a youth-driven organization, group, or initiative focused on upstream and strengths-based suicide prevention or mental health promotion.
- Must live and be doing their work in Oregon.
- Former Peer Leader Award winners are not eligible to win this award again.

### **Can previous award winners be nominated again?**

Previous award winners **cannot** win a second time. But please consider nominating a friend or peer doing good work.

### **What is the deadline to apply? When will winners be notified?**

The nomination form will open March 18th, 2024 and will close at 5pm April 22nd, 2024. Nominees will be notified of selection in early May and awards will be given during the Sources Showcase on May 23rd, 2024.

## What are nominees being scored on?

The selection committee is made up of Matchstick Consulting team members and community partners. The selection committee will score the entries based on how strongly their efforts in upstream suicide prevention and/or mental health promotion **embody one or more** of the following components:

- ★ **Agent of change:** Show us how the candidate used their voice, art, words, music, and/or time to advance belonging, connection, and equity in their school or community.
- ★ **Connector to help:** Show us how the candidate has elevated positive opportunities for their peers. How did the candidate normalize help-seeking and work to break down stigma and codes of silence so often felt when seeking mental health support?
- ★ **Rooted in Hope, Help, and Strength:** Tell us how the candidate embodies strengths-based and inclusive practices. How has the candidate grown in their individual strengths and/or helped others to grow in those strengths?

Given qualifying candidates, the selection committee will ensure that winners are selected to represent a variety of age groups, and include those working inside and outside Sources of Strength programs.

## Who can nominate a young person?

Any student, teacher, Adult Advisor, or other stakeholder may nominate a student/young person for the award. Former award winners are especially encouraged to nominate someone for this year's award.

## What is the application process?

Nominations are submitted via online [Google form](#) or emailing a handwritten [PDF form](#) to [julian@matchstickpdx.com](mailto:julian@matchstickpdx.com). Both forms can be accessed on our website: <https://matchstickpdx.com/sources-showcase>.

In addition to completing the questions asked in the online Google form, applicants are asked to submit a video (**optional**/about 1 minute) describing how the nominee embodies one or more of the components in the Selection Criteria. Videos must be submitted to [julian@matchstickpdx.com](mailto:julian@matchstickpdx.com). Videos can also be submitted via google form application.

Submissions will be evaluated on content and not the “production quality” of videos. The videos are meant to complement the written application, not create a barrier for nominations. Applicants may also include photos, images or any other information to tell the story of their efforts.

If recording and sending a video is a challenge, please reach out to Julian and our team will help develop a plan to record your submission via Zoom or another mechanism.

**How is “suicide prevention and mental health promotion” being defined?**

We paint suicide prevention and mental health promotion initiatives with a broad brush. The applicants will be scored on how closely their efforts fit within the Selection Criteria listed above.

**Who do I contact for questions about this?**

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please reach out to Julian at [julian@matchstickpdx.com](mailto:julian@matchstickpdx.com).