



# The Harris Wofford Awards

**Making Service and Service-Learning the Common Expectation and Common Experience of Every Young Person**

Youth Service America is pleased to announce the 2008 Harris Wofford Awards, sponsored by State Farm Companies Foundation®. Established in 2002, the prestigious Harris Wofford Awards were created to honor former Senator Harris Wofford - one of our nation's greatest public servants. The Awards recognize extraordinary achievements in three categories: Youth, Organization, and Media for actively contributing towards, "making service and service-learning the common expectation and common experience of every young person in America." For more information, to download the nomination form or to learn about past winners, visit [www.ysa.org/awards](http://www.ysa.org/awards) or email [wofford@ysa.org](mailto:wofford@ysa.org).



## Biography



Harris Wofford, former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, who helped launch the Peace Corps and later served as CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, has dedicated much of his life to making citizen service the common expectation for all Americans.

A graduate of the University of Chicago and of Yale and Howard University Law Schools, Mr. Wofford served as counsel to the first U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in 1958. Drawing on his experience in India studying Gandhi in 1949, he became an adviser to Martin Luther King. Following his post as special assistant to President Kennedy for Civil Rights from 1961 to 1962, he became the Peace Corps' special representative to Africa and lived with his family in Addis Ababa. In 1964, he returned to become the Associate Director of the Peace Corps. In 1966 he became the founding president of the State University of New York's College at Old Westbury and, from 1970-78, the president of Bryn Mawr College.

In the Senate from 1991-95, he played a key role in passing the legislation that created the Corporation for National and Community Service, including AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the Senior Corps. From 1995 to 2000, he was the Corporation's CEO. He was an organizer of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in 1997, which convened Presidents Clinton, Bush, Carter, and Ford and established America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth, led by General Colin Powell. From 2002-2004, Mr. Wofford served as chairman of America's Promise. He is the author of several books, including *Of Kennedys and Kings: Making Sense of the Sixties* (1980); co-author with his wife Clare, *India Afire* (1950); and *It's Up To Us* (1946), written at age 19 while in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He is now writing memoirs of eight decades. Mr. Wofford serves on the board of directors of Youth Service America, the Points of Light Foundation, and America's Promise, and is the spokesman for the Experience Wave initiative for engaging older Americans, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies.

## Award Categories and Eligibility

One award winner will be chosen in each of the following three categories. Self-nominations are permitted, while nominations by family members of nominees **will not be accepted**. Each recipient of the Harris Wofford Award will be honored at the 2008 State Farm Awards Ceremony and Luncheon with Harris Wofford, presented at the [19<sup>th</sup> Annual National Service Learning Conference](#), April 9-12, in Minneapolis, MN. Award recipients will also be highlighted as part of a national media campaign coordinated by Youth Service America. Travel arrangements, including airfare and accommodation, will be provided for each award recipient.

**YOUTH** The Youth Award will be given to a youth (ages 12 -25) who is a legal resident of the U.S. who demonstrates exemplary commitment and action to involve his or her peers in service, youth voice, service-learning or civic engagement activities. While youth nominees should be active in volunteering themselves, more emphasis should be on their efforts and success in helping to mobilize and inspire the youth of their generation. The nominee's activities can be focused on the local, state, national or international level. Read about past [Harris Wofford youth winners](#) and their involvement and service activity by visiting our website. The recipient will receive a \$500 award for him/herself and \$500 to give to a non-profit of his or her choice to support program activities.

**ORGANIZATION** The Organization Award will be given to a local, state, or national nonprofit organization, foundation or corporation with a demonstrated record of activity and impact devoted to youth service, youth voice, service-learning, or civic engagement. Activities should clearly reflect efforts to increase the scale, the effectiveness, and the sustainability of the youth service and service-learning field. Read about past [Harris Wofford Organization Winners](#) at our website.

**MEDIA** The Media Award will be given to a media institution or individual member of the media who makes a commitment to the importance of reporting accurately and comprehensively on youth and youth service issues (such as service, youth voice, service-learning, or civic engagement). Eligible media include newspapers, magazines, television, radio, or online news. This category of the award does not accept nominations, and will be chosen by a YSA selection panel. Read about past [Harris Wofford Media Winners](#) at our website.