

**FORT PIERCE YOUTH COUNCIL
AGENDA**

Fort Pierce Youth Council - Thursday, April 16, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.

City Hall - 2nd Floor Conference Room, 100 North U.S. #1, Fort Pierce, Florida

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of the minutes from the March 26, 2026 Fort Pierce Youth Council Meeting.

4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject on this Agenda may be heard at this time. Please limit your comments to no more than five (5) minutes, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The Youth Advisory Committee will not be able to take any official action under "Comments from the Public" section.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Youth Award Candidates

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Youth Listening Event Discussion

7. **COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (772) 467-3065 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Youth Council Advisory Committee - 4:00 PM

3. a.

Meeting Date: 04/16/2026

Re:

SUBJECT:

Approval of the minutes from the March 26, 2026 Fort Pierce Youth Council Meeting.

Youth Council Advisory Committee - 4:00 PM

5. a.

Meeting Date: 04/16/2026

Re:

SUBJECT:

Youth Award Candidates

Attachments

Aurora Morales

Danna Gomez

Emily Tourjee

Robert Funches

Award Evaluation Sheet

Online Form Submittal: City of Fort Pierce Youth Award Recognition Program

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Wed 3/25/2026 8:43 PM

To Audria Moore <amoore@cityoffortpierce.com>

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City of Fort Pierce Youth Award Recognition Program

Youth Award Recognition Program Overview

Overview

As our communities are committed to providing different outlets and opportunities, this award recognition program will showcase talents, celebrate achievements, and highlight the positive impact of the efforts of our local youth. Youth, who have performed above and beyond and excelled in the following categories:

1. Innovator Award
2. Beyond the View
3. Humanitarian Award
4. Visionary Award
5. Role Model Award
6. Student-Athlete Award

The Youth Award Recognition will be awarded to youth who have shown exceptional achievements and have been identified as being clearly outstanding.

Requests for Nominations

Area Schools, sports organizations, youth organizations, faith-based organizations, service clubs, community organizations, parents, business owners, or others who know a young person who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding achievements are requested to submit nominations using the nomination form. Nominations must contain details and examples with supporting documentation of

the achievements and activities of the nominated youth as well as evidence of compliance with eligibility, general and specific criteria established in the award guidelines. Winners are selected based on a recommendation by the evaluation committee. The evaluation committee is comprised of the City of Fort Pierce Youth Council. The awards will be presented in June and December of the current year.

Individuals and organizations are requested to submit nominations via the online nomination form no later than the published deadline. For further details on the nomination process contact Audria Moore at amoore@cityoffortpierce.com or call 772.467.3184.

The City of Fort Pierce reserves the right to accept or reject any nomination or to cancel the nomination process and reject all nominations, at any time prior to presenting the awards.

Award Guidelines

Eligibility

- Nominees must reside in the City of Fort Pierce.
- Nominees must have a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher.
- Nominees must be in middle or high school.
- Nominees' parents or guardians must provide proof of address.
- Nominees must be of good character.
- Nominees' qualifications must meet the award eligibility criteria.

Click Continue below to complete the Youth Award Recognition Nomination Form on the next page.

Youth Award Recognition Nomination Form

NOMINEE

First Name	Aurora
Last Name	Morales
School	Synergy School
Grade Level	11
Phone Number	7722041065

Gender	Female
Address1	5106 Gladness Ct.
Address2	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	Fort Pierce
State	FL
Zip	34947
Email Address	No email address

PERSON NOMINATING

First Name	Damian
Last Name	Spotts
Organization/Title	Fort Pierce Police Dept / Police Ofc
Relation to Nominee	Explorer Post Advisor
Email Address	Dspotts@fppd.org
Phone Number	7723700065

AWARD CATEGORIES

- INNOVATOR AWARD***
Recognizes youth who have shown excellence in the fields of math and science through research, study, or improvement in their community.
- BEYOND THE VIEW***
Recognizes youth who have different accommodations and needs that should be viewed just as normally as anyone else.
- HUMANITARIAN AWARD***
Recognizes youth who have put forth efforts to make their community a better place or are active in local or state government.
- VISIONARY AWARD***
Recognizes youth who have turned creativity and knowledge into an entrepreneurial or economic venture.
- ROLE MODEL AWARD***
Recognizes youth who lend a helping hand to peers and younger youth in their community.

STUDENT ATHLETE AWARD

Recognizes students who show excellence in the classroom through behavior and maintaining grades while also being an athlete.

Award Categories

ROLE MODEL AWARD

To the Nominator: Please comment on the applicant's background, experiences, community involvement, and leadership ability based on the category the youth is being nominated for that will help the review committee evaluate this individual. Please include a letter of recommendation, photographs and/or videos, and other letters of support.

Why are you nominating this individual for an award?

Please see support letter for more details

How has the nominee displayed outstanding performance in the award category for which they are nominated?

Please see support letter for more details

Please list any extracurricular activities that the nominee participates in (volunteer, work, sports, church, etc.) that relates to the category for which they are nominated.

Explorer Post member. Culinary program volunteer at Synergy School

Is there anything else about this nominee that should be taken into consideration?

No. All details within the support letter.

Attach letter of recommendation

[AM.docx](#)

Attach photographs

Field not completed.

Attach video

Field not completed.

Attach other supporting documents

Field not completed.

If you choose to provide information through any form on this site, unless specifically exempted by Florida Statutes, such information is a public record under Florida's Government in the Sunshine Laws and available for public inspection upon demand.

Nominator Signature Damian Spotts

Date 3/25/2026

By signing this application electronically, you certify that all of the information you have submitted as a part of this application process is true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge and that you have read and understand the following materials: Youth Award Recognition Program and Form

**ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN
MARCH 31, 2026.**

Please note that you can also send the completed nomination form and letter of recommendation by email or USPS as follows:

<i>Email:</i>	<i>amoore@cityoffortpierce.com</i>
<i>Mail:</i>	<i>Audria Moore Fort Pierce City Hall 100 North US Hwy 1 Fort Pierce, FL 34950</i>

For additional assistance, please call Audria Moore at 772-467-3184.

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THE SUNRISE CITY

FORT PIERCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT
"In Honor We Serve"

Florida

Date: March 25, 2026

City of Fort Pierce
Youth Council Award Selection Committee.
100 North U.S. Highway 1,
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Re: Nomination of Aurora Morales – 2026 Youth Award Recognition Program.

Dear Youth Council Award Selection Committee,

It is with great pride and confidence that I submit this nomination for Aurora Morales for the 2026 City of Fort Pierce Youth Award Recognition Program. Aurora exemplifies the character, leadership, academic excellence, and community commitment that this award seeks to recognize.

Aurora joined the Fort Pierce Police Explorers on January 10, 2024. From her first day in the program, she demonstrated an exceptional level of maturity and dedication. As a Police Explorer, she consistently goes above and beyond every responsibility assigned to her. Her work ethic is so strong that supervisors often have to remind her to pause and rest. She approaches each task with determination and a genuine desire to serve her community.

In addition to her role as a Police Explorer, Aurora is one of our Courageous Kids / Rich House participants within the department. Through her involvement and leadership, she was offered, in the summer of 2025, the opportunity to serve as a Junior Instructor with Treasure Coast Youth Sailing. In this position, she treated the younger children as if they were her own siblings—guiding them with patience, compassion, and encouragement. She holds her fellow instructors in high regard, respects their leadership, and continuously looks up to her peers while serving as a role model herself.

Aurora's commitment to service extends beyond departmental programs. She volunteers at her school's culinary department and assists with distributing lunch to students throughout the school. Her willingness to help is constant and sincere. Academically, she maintains an outstanding GPA while balancing her extracurricular commitments with excellence.

What truly distinguishes Aurora is her character. She demonstrates unwavering respect toward peers and adults alike, consistently addressing others with "Yes, sir" and "Yes,



THE SUNRISE CITY

FORT PIERCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT
"In Honor We Serve"

Florida

ma'am," regardless of age. She will stand in the rain to complete a task if asked, often needing to be told to step inside because her instinct is to see every responsibility through to completion. Her integrity, humility, and sense of accountability are rare and admirable qualities in a young leader.

Aurora embodies the spirit and purpose of the Youth Award Recognition Program. She not only meets the eligibility criteria but exceeds expectations through her academic performance, leadership, volunteerism, and outstanding character. Most importantly, she makes a meaningful and lasting impact on the Fort Pierce community.

For these reasons, I strongly and wholeheartedly recommend Aurora Morales for the 2026 Youth Award Recognition Program's "Role Model Award". She represents the very best of our youth and the promising future of our city.

Respectfully submitted,

Officer Damian Spotts.
Community Engagement Officer,
Fort Pierce Police Department.

Online Form Submittal: City of Fort Pierce Youth Award Recognition Program

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Fri 1/16/2026 6:21 PM

To Audria Moore <amoore@cityoffortpierce.com>

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Overview

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Award Guidelines

Eligibility

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- Nominees' parents or guardians must provide proof of address.
- Nominees must be of good character.
- Nominees' qualifications must meet the award eligibility criteria.

Click Continue below to complete the Youth Award Recognition Nomination Form on the next page.

Youth Award Recognition Nomination Form

NOMINEE

First Name	Dana
Last Name	Gomez Rodriguez
School	Fort Pierce Central High School
Grade Level	10
Phone Number	7726729110

Gender	Female
Address1	2011 Golfview Ct
Address2	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	Fort Pierce
State	Florida
Zip	34950
Email Address	5622003626@stlucieschools.org

PERSON NOMINATING

First Name	Denise
Last Name	Peschio
Organization/Title	Teacher/St Lucie School District
Relation to Nominee	Student
Email Address	DENISE.PESCHIO@STLUCIESCHOOLS.ORG
Phone Number	9549078913

AWARD CATEGORIES

- INNOVATOR AWARD***
Recognizes youth who have shown excellence in the fields of math and science through research, study, or improvement in their community.
- BEYOND THE VIEW***
Recognizes youth who have different accommodations and needs that should be viewed just as normally as anyone else.
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Recognizes youth who have put forth efforts to make their community a better place or are active in local or state government.
- VISIONARY AWARD***
Recognizes youth who have turned creativity and knowledge into an entrepreneurial or economic venture.
- ROLE MODEL AWARD***
Recognizes youth who lend a helping hand to peers and younger youth in their community.

STUDENT ATHLETE AWARD

Recognizes students who show excellence in the classroom through behavior and maintaining grades while also being an athlete.

Award Categories

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

To the Nominator: Please comment on the applicant’s background, experiences, community involvement, and leadership ability based on the category the youth is being nominated for that will help the review committee evaluate this individual. Please include a letter of recommendation, photographs and/or videos, and other letters of support.

Why are you nominating this individual for an award?

Danna is an outstanding student who excels academically and in extracurricular activities. She is in the FPC Key Club, As a member of Key Club her peers elected her Webmaster. She works tirelessly at this position. Also, she a 10th grader she has earned 188 hours of volunteer time.

How has the nominee displayed outstanding performance in the award category for which they are nominated?

Danna displays outstanding performance for the humanitarian award through her dedication to her community and school. Also, she goes above and beyond their assigned duties to ensure service projects are meaningful, inclusive, impactful and always end up looking beautiful on our social media outlets. With her strong commitment to helping others, she actively organizes and supports initiatives such as beach cleanups, the churches pumpkin patch set ups, the Sights and Sounds Holiday parade, and the Festival of Lights. She encourages member participation, promotes friendships, and service-mindedness within the club.

Please list any extracurricular activities that the nominee participates in (volunteer, work, sports, church, etc.) that relates to the category for which they are nominated.

Danna extracurricular activities are extensive. She is in the FPC Key Club. As a member of Key Club, she was elected to an officer position by her peers. She is the Key Club Webmaster. She is in the National Honor Society; the Red Cross Club, founders and president of the Red Cross Club; the Psychology Club, Vice President; Youth United member, Arts as Medicine Club; and is on the FPC Varsity Soccer Team.

Is there anything else about this nominee that should be taken into consideration?

Last year Danna was selected to attend the Key Club DCON in Daytona, Florida. This is a 4-day event full of leadership, education, service, and connection between more than 1,000 Key Clubbers from across the Florida District. While there Danna attended various workshops on leadership, service ideas, club office trainings as well as earned numerous awards for her dedication to service.

Furthermore, Danna is an outstanding student. She is in AICE classes with the goal of earning her AICE diploma. She is in Dual Enrollment. Her current GPA is 3.96 in the first semester at FPC.

Danna is truly an outstanding, caring, nurturing, hardworking,

ethical, and intelligent young person who embodies the core values of what it means to be a humanitarian leader.

Attach letter of recommendation [Letter of Recommendation for Danna.docx](#)

Attach photographs [IMG_8688.JPG](#)

Attach video *Field not completed.*

Attach other supporting documents *Field not completed.*

If you choose to provide information through any form on this site, unless specifically exempted by Florida Statutes, such information is a public record under Florida's Government in the Sunshine Laws and available for public inspection upon demand.

Nominator Signature Denise Peschio

Date 1/16/2026

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Danna Gomez Rodriguez. I have known Danna for 2 years in various capacities. She has been in Key Cub for 2 years which I am the sponsor. Also, she is in my AICE Language and Composition class in which she excels. During this time, I have had the pleasure of seeing Danna grow into a mature, focused, hardworking, caring, and intelligent role model for other students in class and at volunteering at events.

Furthermore, Danna's leadership skills are evident in her extracurricular activities. She is committed and hardworking in her activities. She has been a member of the Key Club for 2 years where she has done several events to make her community a better place to live. Furthermore, she was elected by her peers to a leadership role in the Key Club as the club Webmaster. In this role and as a Clubber, she demonstrates outstanding humanitarian performance through her role by using technology and communication to amplify service and outreach. Danna consistently ensures that humanitarian projects such as beach cleanups, the local churches' pumpkin patch set ups, and food drives are clearly promoted through the club's Instagram page and other digital platforms. This makes it easier for members to get involved and serve others.

Beyond maintaining online content, Danna highlights the impact of service by showcasing volunteer efforts, sharing stories from the community, and recognizing member's contributions. Her dedication helps spread awareness of humanitarian causes and fosters a stronger sense of connection in purpose within the club. With her help, the FPC Key Club has over 330 paid members, making it one of the largest effective clubs in the state of Florida. Her dedication and desire to help her community and school is further evident in her involvement in the Red Cross Club at FPC. Seeing a greater need to help the community, Danna took the initiative to start the Red Cross Club on campus. As founder and president of this club, Danna hopes to reduce community suffering and provide relief through volunteering after a disaster. Also, in the future she hopes to work in the health field to truly dedicate her life to helping others.

She is truly the most outstanding candidate to earn the humanitarian award because she exemplifies compassionate leadership and upholds humanitarian values in all her endeavors.

Warm Regards,

Denise Peschio
FPC Key Club Sponsor
English Teacher

Online Form Submittal: City of Fort Pierce Youth Award Recognition Program

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Fri 3/27/2026 9:10 PM

To Audria Moore <amoore@cityoffortpierce.com>

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Click Continue below to complete the Youth Award Recognition Nomination Form on the next page.

Youth Award Recognition Nomination Form

NOMINEE

First Name Emily

Last Name Tourjee

School Fort Pierce Central High School

Grade Level 10

Phone Number 7728280011

Gender	F
Address1	2642 S 10TH ST
Address2	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	FORT PIERCE
State	FL
Zip	34982
Email Address	emilytanna21@gmail.com

PERSON NOMINATING

First Name	Judi
Last Name	Tourjee
Organization/Title	Mom
Relation to Nominee	mother
Email Address	judiohara@gmail.com
Phone Number	7728289481

AWARD CATEGORIES

- INNOVATOR AWARD***
Recognizes youth who have shown excellence in the fields of math and science through research, study, or improvement in their community.
- BEYOND THE VIEW***
Recognizes youth who have different accommodations and needs that should be viewed just as normally as anyone else.
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- ROLE MODEL AWARD***
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STUDENT ATHLETE AWARD

Recognizes students who show excellence in the classroom through behavior and maintaining grades while also being an athlete.

Award Categories HUMANITARIAN AWARD, ROLE MODEL AWARD, STUDENT ATHLETE AWARD

To the Nominator: Please comment on the applicant’s background, experiences, community involvement, and leadership ability based on the category the youth is being nominated for that will help the review committee evaluate this individual. Please include a letter of recommendation, photographs and/or videos, and other letters of support.

Why are you nominating this individual for an award? I am nominating this individual for these awards because they consistently demonstrate exceptional leadership, remarkable athleticism, and an unwavering commitment to serving as a positive role model. Their dedication to mentoring others, uplifting their peers, and setting a standard of excellence makes them truly deserving of this recognition.

How has the nominee displayed outstanding performance in the award category for which they are nominated? The nominee has demonstrated exceptional performance through a combination of leadership, discipline, and consistent excellence in their responsibilities. Their actions reflect a deep commitment to personal growth and to elevating those around them. They approach every challenge with focus and determination, often exceeding expectations and setting a standard that others naturally follow. Their influence extends beyond individual accomplishments; they elevate the entire community.

Please list any extracurricular activities that the nominee participates in (volunteer, work, sports, church, etc.) that relates to the category for which they are nominated.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Fort Pierce Central High School Marching Band Feature Twirler | July 2024 – Present
- M&M Sweeties Baton National Team Member | June 2023 – Present
- M&M Sweeties Baton Competition/Performing Teams Member | June 2021 – June 2025

CERTIFICATIONS

- Global Leadership Certificate | February 2026
- National Society of Leadership and Success | December 2025

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Fort Pierce Central HS Red Cross | January 2026 – Present
- Fort Pierce Central HS National Honor Society | August 2025 – Present
- M&M Sweeties Volunteer | August 2024 – Present
- Fairlawn Elementary | August 2024 – Present
- Fort Pierce Central HS Key Club | August 2024 – Present

AWARDS & HONORS

- Black History Month Creative Arts & Essay Contest – Honorable Mention | February 2026
- Principal Honor Roll, Fort Pierce Central HS | SY 2024–2025 (Q1–Q4), SY 2025–2026 (Q1, Q3)
- AICE Media Studies Award (1st Place) | September 2025
- College Board School Recognition Award Nominee | January 2025
- Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovator | July 2024
- Valedictorian at Creative Arts Academy of St. Lucie | May 2024

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Red Cross Club, Fort Pierce Central HS | January 2026 – Present
- National Society of Leadership and Success | November 2025 – Present
- Phi Theta Kappa, Indian River State College | November 2025 – Present
- National Honor Society, Fort Pierce Central HS | August 2025 – Present
- Key Club, Fort Pierce Central HS | August 2024 – Present
- Debate Club, Fort Pierce Central HS | August 2024 – May 2025

Color Guard & Baton Achievements

- State Solo & Ensemble (Baton) Superior Rating – March 2026
- Miss Parade Majorette – March 2026
- Beach Bash Beg Stutter Champion – March 2026
- Palm Beach Twirling Classic Marching Princess – Feb. 2026
- Anchor Splash Strutter Champion – Feb. 2026
- Twirlfest Strutter Champion – Jan. 2026
- District Solo & Ensemble (Baton) Superior Rating — Jan. 2026
- NBTA National Sabre Champion — July 2025
- NBTA National Rifle 2nd Place — July 2025
- NBTA National Flag 5th Place — July 2025
- NBTA State Novice Solo Champion — March 2025
- NBTA State Novice Strut Queen — March 2025
- State Solo & Ensemble (Baton) Superior Rating — March 2025
- Anchor Splash Strutter Champion – Feb. 2025
- District Solo & Ensemble (Baton) Superior Rating — Jan. 2025
- NBTA National Rifle 3rd Place — July 2024
- NBTA National Show Twirl (Multi Equipment) 6th Place — July 2024

-
- Academic Achievement
 - Fort Pierce Central High School
 - Cumulative GPA: 3.9

- Weighted GPA: 4.5

Is there anything else about this nominee that should be taken into consideration? The nominee consistently demonstrates honesty, accountability, and respect in every setting. Their decisions reflect strong moral judgment, and they are trusted by peers and mentors alike because they follow through on commitments and uphold high personal standards.

Attach letter of recommendation [School - Emily Tourjee.pdf](#)

Attach photographs [Emily Tourjee 1.jpeg](#)

Attach video [Video - Emily Tourjee.MP4](#)

Attach other supporting documents [The MM Sweetles - Emily Tourjee.pdf](#)

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Nominator Signature Judi Tourjee

Date 3/26/2026

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Fort Pierce Central High School

4101 South 25th Street • Fort Pierce, Florida 34981
Phone (772) 468-5888 • Fax (772) 468-5761



ELDRIQUE T. GARDNER
Principal

KELLY BAILER
NATASHA SANTORO
CHRISTIE TORRES
SARAH ARMADA
JESUS RIVERA
Assistant Principals

To the Youth Council Awards Selection Committee,

It is my great honor to recommend Emily Tanna Tourjee for the Role Model Award. As her AICE English Language teacher at Fort Pierce Central High School and the sponsor of Key Club, I have witnessed firsthand the exemplary character, maturity, and leadership that make Emily a powerful positive influence on her peers.

Emily leads not by authority but by example. She consistently demonstrates respect, kindness, and integrity. These are qualities that inspire those around her to rise to their best selves. In the classroom, she contributes thoughtful insights, collaborates with empathy, and supports classmates without hesitation. Her humility, even in the face of numerous achievements, only strengthens her impact as a role model for her peers. For example, she earns Principal's Honor Roll every single quarter. Also, she earned the AICE award in Media Studies for being one of the top 3 scores in the entire school.

Beyond academics, Emily's involvement in clubs and service organizations, including Key Club, National Honor Society, Band, and the Red Cross. These clubs reflect her unwavering dedication to making a difference. She approaches every commitment with reliability and a quiet but powerful sense of responsibility. Younger students look up to her not only for her success, but for the grace and compassion with which she carries herself. Most recently she ran for the position of Webmaster of the FPC Key Club and won! Her peers realized her artistic talents, friendliness, dedication, and work ethic; thus, voting her into the position of Webmaster for the largest, most active Key Club on the Treasure Coast with over 300 active members. Also, she just completed her Global Leadership Certification for Key Club.

Emily's accomplishments in baton twirling and performing arts further highlight her determination and discipline. Yet what truly sets her apart is her willingness to use her strengths to uplift others, offering encouragement, guidance, and mentorship to those who admire her. She spends her time at Fairlawn Elementary School as an assistant coach teaching the young children their routines for their end of the year show. The children love and admire her, making her a perfect role model for them.

Emily is the kind of young woman who elevates every space she enters. She is steady, dependable, and driven, with qualities that make her a natural role model within our school and community. I highly recommend her for the Role Model Award.

Sincerely,
Denise Peschio *Denise Peschio*
Fort Pierce Central High School
Key Club Sponsor

St. Lucie
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



District-wide System Accreditation by AdvancED

The School Board of St. Lucie County is an Equal Opportunity Agency





The M&M Sweeties
Coach Missie Liss - 772-370-7787
msmsweetiespsl@gmail.com
Facebook @ M & M Sweeties Baton Group
Instagram @mnm.sweeties



For More Information visit: mnm.sweeties.com or Contact Coach Missie via call or text.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I recommend Emily Tourjee for this award. I have had the privilege of knowing and instructing Emily through the M&M Sweeties program since she was seven years old, and during that time, I have watched her grow into an exceptional young woman.

Emily began her journey in baton twirling at a young age, and from the start, she demonstrated dedication, determination, and a natural talent for the sport. Over the years, she has continued to refine her skills, competing both individually and as part of a team. Her commitment has taken her across Florida and even to Nationals at Notre Dame, where she has represented our program with pride and professionalism.

Beyond her impressive athletic ability, Emily's character truly sets her apart. She is caring, kind, smart, enthusiastic, and always willing to help others. She consistently demonstrates leadership, patience, and maturity, especially when volunteering in my classes and working with younger children. Emily not only model's strong technical skills but also encourages and supports others in their growth, serving as a positive role model within our organization.

In my 40 years as instructor and owner of M&M Sweeties in St. Lucie County, I have worked with many talented young athletes. Emily stands out not only for her talent, but for her integrity, work ethic, and leadership qualities. She represents the very best of what this award seeks to recognize.

I wholeheartedly recommend Emily Tourjee and am confident she will continue to achieve great things while positively impacting those around her.

Sincerely,

Missie Liss

Instructor & Owner

M&M Sweeties



Online Form Submittal: City of Fort Pierce Youth Award Recognition Program

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Wed 3/4/2026 1:43 PM

To Audria Moore <amoore@cityoffortpierce.com>

SECURITY WARNING: This email has been generated from external sources and is not affiliated with the City of Fort Pierce systems. Exercise caution while clicking on links or opening attachments. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the IT department promptly.

City of Fort Pierce Youth Award Recognition Program

Youth Award Recognition Program Overview

Overview

As our communities are committed to providing different outlets and opportunities, this award recognition program will showcase talents, celebrate achievements, and highlight the positive impact of the efforts of our local youth. Youth, who have performed above and beyond and excelled in the following categories:

1. Innovator Award
2. Beyond the View
3. Humanitarian Award
4. Visionary Award
5. Role Model Award
6. Student-Athlete Award

The Youth Award Recognition will be awarded to youth who have shown exceptional achievements and have been identified as being clearly outstanding.

Requests for Nominations

Area Schools, sports organizations, youth organizations, faith-based organizations, service clubs, community organizations, parents, business owners, or others who know a young person who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding achievements are requested to submit nominations using the nomination form. Nominations must contain details and examples with supporting documentation of

the achievements and activities of the nominated youth as well as evidence of compliance with eligibility, general and specific criteria established in the award guidelines. Winners are selected based on a recommendation by the evaluation committee. The evaluation committee is comprised of the City of Fort Pierce Youth Council. The awards will be presented in June and December of the current year.

Individuals and organizations are requested to submit nominations via the online nomination form no later than the published deadline. For further details on the nomination process contact Audria Moore at amoore@cityoffortpierce.com or call 772.467.3184.

The City of Fort Pierce reserves the right to accept or reject any nomination or to cancel the nomination process and reject all nominations, at any time prior to presenting the awards.

Award Guidelines

Eligibility

- Nominees must reside in the City of Fort Pierce.
- Nominees must have a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher.
- Nominees must be in middle or high school.
- Nominees' parents or guardians must provide proof of address.
- Nominees must be of good character.
- Nominees' qualifications must meet the award eligibility criteria.

Click Continue below to complete the Youth Award Recognition Nomination Form on the next page.

Youth Award Recognition Nomination Form

NOMINEE

First Name	Robert
Last Name	Funches
School	Creative Arts Academy
Grade Level	8
Phone Number	(772) 882 - 8257

Gender	Male
Address1	744 WORLINGTON LN
Address2	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	FORT PIERCE
State	FL
Zip	34947
Email Address	VivaLaJean@gmail.com

PERSON NOMINATING

First Name	Krystle
Last Name	Funches-Jean
Organization/Title	Funches Foundation Empowerment Project
Relation to Nominee	Mother
Email Address	KFunchesJean@
Phone Number	7862195903

AWARD CATEGORIES

- INNOVATOR AWARD***
Recognizes youth who have shown excellence in the fields of math and science through research, study, or improvement in their community.
- BEYOND THE VIEW***
Recognizes youth who have different accommodations and needs that should be viewed just as normally as anyone else.
- HUMANITARIAN AWARD***
Recognizes youth who have put forth efforts to make their community a better place or are active in local or state government.
- VISIONARY AWARD***
Recognizes youth who have turned creativity and knowledge into an entrepreneurial or economic venture.
- ROLE MODEL AWARD***
Recognizes youth who lend a helping hand to peers and younger youth in their community.

STUDENT ATHLETE AWARD

Recognizes students who show excellence in the classroom through behavior and maintaining grades while also being an athlete.

Award Categories

STUDENT ATHLETE AWARD

To the Nominator: Please comment on the applicant’s background, experiences, community involvement, and leadership ability based on the category the youth is being nominated for that will help the review committee evaluate this individual. Please include a letter of recommendation, photographs and/or videos, and other letters of support.

Why are you nominating this individual for an award?

I am nominating my son because he exemplifies what it means to be a true student athlete. He is determined, focused, and consistently committed to excellence both on and off the field. Since moving to St. Lucie County, he has quickly established himself as a leader among his peers, bringing positivity, discipline, and a strong work ethic to every team he joins. His dedication to balancing academics and athletics, along with his ability to motivate and uplift others, makes him an outstanding candidate for this award.

How has the nominee displayed outstanding performance in the award category for which they are nominated?

He has demonstrated exceptional athletic performance through his relentless drive to improve, his discipline during training, and his ability to consistently show up for his teammates. His coaches frequently commend his leadership, sportsmanship, and ability to set the tone for the team—whether by working harder, encouraging others, or stepping up when challenges arise. He gives 100% effort in every practice and every game, and his determination reflects his deep commitment to both personal growth and team success. His performance is not just measured in physical skill, but in character, leadership, and perseverance.

Please list any extracurricular activities that the nominee participates in (volunteer, work, sports, church, etc.) that relates to the category for which they are nominated.

He has participated in multiple athletic programs since arriving in St. Lucie County, including:
Fire Hawks football, Co-ed Flag and 7 on 7 Football, CAST basketball, Track hawk track team, and is an award-winning swimmer. He was starter on the 8th grade basketball team, leading his team in warmups and motivating them through tough games.

Is there anything else about this nominee that should be taken into consideration?

Beyond his athletic abilities, he is a young man of exceptional character. His respect for others, strong sense of responsibility, and natural leadership are evident in everything he does. One of the clearest reflections of his maturity is the loving care he shows his special-needs sister. He plays a significant role in her daily caregiving, offering patience, support, and compassion far beyond what is expected of someone his age. His commitment to her well-being demonstrates not only his

heart, but also his deep sense of family responsibility.

Despite the challenges of transitioning to a new community, he has embraced every opportunity with resilience and a positive spirit. He takes pride in representing his school and his teams, and he consistently makes choices rooted in integrity and leadership. His passion for athletics is matched by his dedication to being a role model within our family, at school, and throughout the wider community.

Attach letter of recommendation [RF Letter of Reccomendation.pdf](#)

Attach photographs [Untitled design\(9\).png](#)

Attach video *Field not completed.*

Attach other supporting documents *Field not completed.*

If you choose to provide information through any form on this site, unless specifically exempted by Florida Statutes, such information is a public record under Florida's Government in the Sunshine Laws and available for public inspection upon demand.

Nominator Signature Krystle Funches

Date 3/4/2026

By signing this application electronically, you certify that all of the information you have submitted as a part of this application process is true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge and that you have read and understand the following materials: Youth Award Recognition Program and Form

**ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN
MARCH 31, 2026.**

Please note that you can also send the completed nomination form and letter of recommendation by email or USPS as follows:

<i>Email:</i>	<i>amoore@cityoffortpierce.com</i>
<i>Mail:</i>	<i>Audria Moore Fort Pierce City Hall</i>

*100 North US Hwy 1
Fort Pierce, FL 34950*

For additional assistance, please call Audria Moore at 772-467-3184.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

To: Dear Youth Award Nomination Committee
Letter of Recommendation
For: Robert Shorter Funches

It is my pleasure to recommend Robert Funches for recognition in the Student-Athlete category. As his mentor, I have had the privilege of watching Robert grow into a remarkable young man whose character, leadership, and dedication extend far beyond athletics.

Robert is an exceptionally driven student-athlete who approaches every challenge with focus, determination, and humility. His work ethic is unmatched; whether on the field, court, track, or in the pool, he consistently gives his full effort and sets an example for peers to follow. His ability to adapt and excel across multiple sports—including football, track, award-winning swimming, and most recently basketball, where he earned a position on the A-Team—is a testament to his discipline and natural athletic talent.

However, what truly distinguishes Robert is his character. He is a respectful, responsible, and grounded young man who leads with kindness and integrity. His coaches and teammates often look to him for encouragement, guidance, and positivity. He brings maturity and accountability to every environment he is a part of.

One of Robert's most admirable qualities is the love and care he shows his special-needs sister. He plays a meaningful role in her daily support, demonstrating extraordinary patience, compassion, and responsibility. The maturity he displays in this caregiving role far surpasses his age and speaks volumes about the depth of his character. The same heart he brings to his family is reflected in how he treats peers, teammates, and members of the community.

Since moving to St. Lucie County, Robert has embraced every opportunity with resilience and optimism. He has integrated into new teams, welcomed new challenges, and continued to rise as a leader among his peers. He takes pride in representing his school and carries himself with a quiet confidence that inspires others.

Robert is not only an impressive athlete—he is an exceptional young man who embodies leadership, empathy, and integrity. I am confident that he will continue to make a positive impact wherever he goes, and I wholeheartedly support his nomination for this award. Please feel free to contact me if further information is needed.

Sincerely,
Yves Jean

EVALUATION SHEET

Youth Award Recognition Contest Selection Criteria

Repondents	Reside in Ft. Pierce	2.8 GPA or higher	Middle or High School	Proof of Address	Good Character	Meet Award Criteria	Total Points
Aurora Morales	5		5	5			
Danna G. Rodriguez	5		5	5			
Emily Tourjee	5		5	5			
Robert Funches	5		5	5			

Criteria	Possible Points
Reside in Ft. Pierce	5
2.8 GPA or higher	15
Middle or High School	5
Proof of Address	5
Good Character	20
Meet Award Criteria	50
Total	100

YOCO Member _____