



RUBINCAM YOUTH AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Junior Rubincam Youth Award

Applicant should be a student in Grades 7 to 9, or between the ages of 13 to 15.

Each applicant should submit a written essay in a biographical format of a principal individual, either male or female. Applicants may use a natural or adoptive parent or a guardian as the principal individual.

The submission should contain between 750 to 1200 words. It should demonstrate the applicant's beginning understanding of various genealogical records and concepts. Applicants should apply intellectual skills in compiling the family genealogy and place events in historical context.

Step No. 1:

Families are special and unique. Within every family there are unrecognized heroes. Select a person whom you admire and respect and conduct an in-person oral interview. You may record the interview with the person's permission.

Some open ended questions might include:

Names - Why did your parents select your name for you? Did you have a nickname?

Residences – Where did you grow up? How did your family come to live there? Describe the house (apartment, farm, etc.) you lived in. How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Telephones? Television? Were there any special items in the house that you remember?

Childhood Memories - What is your earliest childhood memory? What kind of games did you play? What kind of toys did you have? What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)? What were your family chores? Who were your childhood heroes and why? How is the world today different from when you were a child?

Family - Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about that person? What stories have come down to you about your parents?

Grandparents? Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family? Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable? What world events had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family?

School - What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects? Where did you attend grade school? High school? College? What school activities and sports did you participate in?

Religion – What was your religion? Did you attend religious services while growing up? What did you do on Saturday/Sunday? How did you celebrate your religious holidays (Christmas, Easter, Chanukah, Passover, other)?

Holidays - How did your family celebrate special days (birthdays, Thanksgiving, 4th of July, etc.)? Did your family have unique foods or traditions?

Employment - What was your profession and how did you choose it? If you could have had any other profession what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice? What accomplishments were you most proud of?

Step No. 2:

Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down to you? Items may include: journals/diaries, letters, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, announcements such as for weddings or births, family Bibles, baby books, photo albums, memorial cards, autograph books.

Ask to look at some of these home sources with your relative. As you look at the items, listen carefully to what your relative says about them. Ask questions like: Why is it important to you? Who are the people? (This may overlap with some of the information in the above exercise.)

Step No. 3:

Create a timeline of your relative's life. In addition to relevant biographical information (including birth date and place, the names of parents, marriage(s), parents' deaths, spouse(s), birth of children), include pertinent historical events for the native homeland.

Step No. 4:

Write an essay, between 750 to 1200 words, which incorporates what you learned about your family member. Besides relevant biographical information (including birth date and place and the names of parents, marriage(s), spouse(s), and names of children), discuss why this person is important to you. If the essay is of a living person, include an authorization letter.

Style

Submissions should be

Typed on 8-1/2" x 11" letter-quality paper.

Double-spaced.

Have one-inch margins on all four sides.

Title page should include

Title

Applicant's contact information

Name

Address

Telephone

E-mail

Submission date

Pages should be numbered consecutively, with the title page counting as the first page.

Supportive evidence (Do Not Include Originals.)

Must accompany each genealogical biography.

Includes photocopies or certified statements of fact.

Identifies the original sources (book, page number, file or jacket number, microfilm number, etc.) and repository.

Is cited in footnote form.

For more information, see the general guidelines on the NGS website (www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/rubincam_youth_award/nomination_form), the downloadable PDF sample biography, other citation forms, and suggested references.

Mail your completed submission materials to:

NGS Rubincam Award
National Genealogical Society
3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22204-4370 USA

E-mail contact information is required for all submissions.

Questions? Contact the NGS Awards Chair at awards@ngsgenealogy.org