

# The Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee



## JOHN LEWIS STUDENT ACTIVIST AWARD 2022 Application Announcement

The Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee (TMLKC) is excited to announce our annual award honoring the life and legacy of the late U.S. Congressman and Civil Rights leader, John Lewis.

Congressman Lewis' commitment to social justice and transformational change was ignited in his young adulthood and continued as a lifelong pursuit. At 21, he was among the original 13 Freedom Riders. He was a founding leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. By the time he was 23, he helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where Dr. King delivered his most famous speech. At the age of 25, Lewis led the infamous march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL where his skull was cracked by a Trooper's billy club. Though his legacy of work spanned his lifetime, his courageous leadership in his youth helped progress the U.S. Civil Rights movement forward and set a foundation for his life's mission.

John Lewis called this work "Good Trouble." Throughout his life, he urged young people to take up the cause of furthering civil rights for all Americans. Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee established this award to recognize and uplift the work of a modern-day, passionate young leader that is making significant strides and impact in social justice activism as the civil rights movement marches on.

### Eligibility for the Award:

- Leader between the ages of 18-22 years old that is making a positive impact through social justice activism in the Triangle and surrounding areas (i.e. Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Orange, Vance and Wake counties)

### This special recognition award includes:

- Highlight of the leader's work at the 2022 Triangle Interfaith Prayer Breakfast (virtual) on January 17, 2022 where the winner will be announced
- \$500 honorarium
- Opportunity for engagement with the Committee through future activities, publications, relationship building, etc.

### Application Process

- Share the story of your journey into social justice leadership by answering the following questions:
  - o Describe your work toward social justice including what you have done, what you are doing and what do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?
  - o Please describe your awakening to the obligations you bear to further the cause of social justice and what catalyzed you into action.
  - o How does Congressman Lewis' message of getting into "good trouble" resonate with you and how is it reflected in the work you have done/are doing?
  - o In what geographic area of the Triangle and surrounding communities has your work had impact and how do you describe the impact?

- Share your current age and school (if applicable) and/or any other affiliations that you would like us to know about.
- Application must include at least one letter of reference from an established community leader that attests to the work that he/she has witnessed from you, your impact and the qualities that make you a strong candidate for the award. The letter should include the recommender's title and organization, relationship to the applicant and how long the recommender has known the applicant. Examples of established community leaders include an official representative from school, church, community organization, etc. Your reference should not be a relative.
- Optional: Please include any documentation of your work in the form of photographs, videos and/or links to news coverage, articles, websites, social media, etc. The Committee recognizes that all applicants may not have the same access to resources and therefore some may not have documentation to share. Documentation will be useful but is not a necessity for full consideration.
- Please limit your entire response to all questions to 500 words or less and use no smaller than 12-point font. Your responses to all questions should be one page in length at most using these guidelines.

### **Application Submission & Deadline:**

- Completed applications including letter of reference must be received no LATER THAN **January 7, 2022** for consideration.
- Submissions should be made to: [planner4trianglemlk@gmail.com](mailto:planner4trianglemlk@gmail.com). **Subject Line:** JLA Application.
- Finalists will be notified by January 12, 2022. **All finalists must commit to the following:** 1) Attend the virtual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast where the winner will be announced, 2) Participate in the development of a video presentation at a time TBD between January 8 – 14<sup>th</sup>, 3) Allow name, image, application essay and organization information to be used at will, without compensation, by TMLKC on our website and in social media, newsletters and other media.

### **About Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee**

#### **Mission**

TMLKC invests in and amplifies the voices of leaders, organizations and movements pursuing systemic and transformational change through collective community service in the Triangle.

#### **Vision**

A world that reflects the Beloved Community where all people are valued, respected and treated with dignity. *(Adopted from The King Center's vision statement)*

#### **Values**

- Love
- Servant Leadership
- Social Justice – A process, not an outcome, which (1) seeks fair (re)distribution of resources, opportunities and responsibilities; (2) challenges the roots of oppression and injustice; (3) empowers all people to exercise self-determination and realize their full potential; (4) and builds social solidarity and community capacity for collaborative action
- Equity – the process of fairly returning value to every human being
- Intergenerational – Involvement of several generations
- Anti-Racism – Encompasses a range of ideas and political actions meant to counter racial prejudice, systemic racism and the oppression of specific racial groups. The definition of anti-racism: the policy or practice of opposing racism and promoting racial tolerance