



JOHN LEWIS STUDENT ACTIVIST AWARD - 2023 Application Announcement

Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee (TMLKC) acknowledges and honors the late **U.S. Congressman and Civil Rights leader, John Lewis'** lifelong commitment to and pursuit of social justice and transformational change which begin in his young adulthood. 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 a Trooper's billy club cracked his skull. 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," and throughout his life, urged young people to take up the cause of furthering civil rights for all Americans. Accordingly, TMLKC established this annual award to recognize and uplift the work of modern-day, passionate young leaders who are making significant strides and impact in social justice activism as the civil rights movement marches on.

This special recognition award includes:

- A highlight of the young leader's impact at the 2023 TMLKC Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on January 16, 2023 where the winner will be announced
- \$500 honorarium paid to the winner (via check)
- Future engagement opportunities with TMLKC through relationship building, publications, programs, etc.

Eligibility for the Award:

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

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Theme:

Triangle Martin Luther King Jr. Committee is focusing on the **principle of nonviolence** as our 2023 theme to guide us as we connect with similar mission-driven organizations to realize Dr. King's vision of a Beloved Community, a community where everyone is cared for, absent of poverty, hunger and hate.

With non-violence as a guiding principle, share with us details regarding your personal leadership and impact considering the following:

- In a world that often reflects violence in a variety of forms (e.g., physical abuse, incivility, emotional abuse, aggression, micro-aggression, intimidation, among many others), how do you lead nonviolence in your work and in guiding the social justice causes to which you have committed yourself?
- What does it mean to practice nonviolence as a way of life?
- Is non-violence important in the current reality of the world?
- How have you taken action to make a difference?

Application Submission:

Your application submission can be **in any form that allows you to show us who you authentically are**. Whether you choose to write an essay, create a video, share poetry, other forms of writing, song, dance, spoken word, visual arts or other forms of expression - we want to learn about you, your work and your **IMPACT** in whatever form enables you best express yourself.

Application Supplemental Requirements:

- In addition to your chosen form of application submission, please provide the following:
 - o Current age and school attending (if applicable)
 - o Any affiliations you would like us to know about
 - o Indicate the geographic area of the Triangle and/or surrounding communities that have been impacted by your efforts and how.
 - o Current address, phone number and active email address
 - o Short bio (<=50 words) of your background & origins of your social justice work
 - o If your submission is not in essay form, also provide context for the expression you're sharing and how you have used what you are submitting to have **IMPACT**.

- Application must include **at least one letter of reference** from an established community leader who attests to witnessing the work and impact of the applicant as well as to knowing the qualities that make the applicant a strong candidate for the award. The letter should include:
 - o Recommender's title and organization
 - o Relationship to and number of years knowing the applicant (should not be a relative)
 - o Examples of established community leaders include an official representative from school, church, community organization, etc.

- **Optional:** Beyond the form in which you choose to submit your application, please include any additional 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 additional documentation may be useful but is not a necessity for full consideration.

Application Limits:

- If choosing to apply via written essay, please limit your expression to 500 words or less using no smaller than 12-point font, double spaced and one-inch margins.
- If choosing to apply using video or other forms requiring viewing, please limit the length of your expression to 3 minutes.

Application Submission & Deadline:

- **Applications, including the required letter of reference, must be received no LATER THAN December 12, 2022 for consideration.**
- Submissions should be made to: planner4trianglemlk@gmail.com.
Subject Line: John Lewis Award Application.
- **Finalists will be notified by DECEMBER 28, 2022. All finalists must commit to the following:**
 - o Attend the TMLKC Interfaith Prayer Breakfast where the winner will be announced
 - o If requested, participate in the recording of a video presentation
 - o Allow name, image, application materials submitted and any other related information to be used at will, without compensation, by TMLKC on our website and in social media, newsletters and other media.