

The Honorable Don Siegelman
Governor of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2751

Dear Governor Siegelman:

The purpose of this letter is to invite participation in the Young American Medals Program. This program, established by an Act of Congress in 1950, recognizes the outstanding contributions of young men and women 18 years old or younger. The governor of each state, the chief executive of each territory, and the Mayor of the District of Columbia are invited to submit nominations under this program. There are two categories of award--bravery and service. The Young American Medal for Bravery recognizes individuals who exhibit exceptional courage, extraordinary decisionmaking, presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of their own personal safety, in an effort to save a person whose life was in actual imminent danger. The Young American Medal for Service recognizes individuals who have achieved outstanding or unusual recognition for character and service.

The Department of Justice is currently seeking nominations for calendar years 1998, 1999, and 2000. Therefore, up to two candidates for each medal for each calendar year may be nominated (i.e., two for bravery in 1998, 1999, and 2000 and two for service in 1998, 1999, and 2000). **Please use the enclosed forms to submit nominations which are due to the Department of Justice 120 days from the date of this letter.** Also enclosed are the Young American Medals Program Regulations. As in the past, the U.S. Attorneys and a group of mayors from the nation's largest cities have been contacted and asked to submit the names of eligible youths to their state governors for consideration.

The Young American Medals Program provides an opportunity to pay tribute to young people who have shown exceptional courage or volunteered many hours to their communities. Through this program, the many outstanding contributions of our nation's youth can be recognized. Questions or requests for additional information about this program should be referred to Ellen Wesley, Young American Medals Coordinator, at (202) 616-3558.

Sincerely,

John Ashcroft
Attorney General

Enclosures