

**THE NAACP BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
BRANCH
PRESENTS THE
2026 MR. HARRY HIGHTOWER'S
"YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD"**

The Harry Hightower "Youth Community Service Award" was created to celebrate the success of youth who are involved in community service throughout the Bloomington-Normal area. The late, Mr. Harry Hightower, was the quintessential community activist. Mr. Hightower was a past president of the local NAACP branch, as well as Treasurer of the Illinois State Conference of NAACP branches. He was active in a plethora of community-based organizations and activities.

This prestigious award will acknowledge the fine efforts of one local minority high school senior who embraces the spirit of diversity, while being energetically and enthusiastically engaged in community service, community projects, and other community-based activities. The \$250.00 award will be granted to a high school senior residing in the Bloomington/Normal community. The award recipient will also receive three complimentary tickets to attend the NAACP's Annual Freedom Fund Banquet on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at the DoubleTree Hotel, located at 10 Brickyard Drive-Bloomington, Illinois 61701.

If you meet the above criteria, please consider nominating yourself for this noteworthy award! The nomination form must be postmarked or emailed by Friday, August 14, 2026.

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

YOUR HIGH SCHOOL'S NAME: _____

YOUR PARENT(S) NAMES: _____

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

CRITERIA:

1. *The nominee must be an African American/Black high school senior, attending a local high school.*
2. *The nominee must reside in the Bloomington/Normal area.*
3. *The nominee must be actively engaged in community service efforts.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Applications must be typewritten or neatly printed.*
2. *When completing Parts A-D, please use the full name of awards, clubs, and organizations (no acronyms). Attach other sheets if additional space is warranted.*
3. *Judges will use an unbiased assessment process that is scalable.*
4. *Submit the nomination form **either** via email or U.S. Postal service:*
 - *The completed electronic nomination form should be sent to:*
DR.CARLACAMPBELL@GMAIL.COM

-OR-

- *The completed paper nomination form should be sent to:*

NAACP BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL BRANCH
P.O. BOX 925
NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761
ATTN : MR. HARRY HIGHTOWER'S YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

PLEASE CONTACT 309-530-5211 OR DR.CARLACAMPBELL@GMAIL.COM IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS.

ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026.

PART A:

*Please list your community service affiliations, activities, and offices held (if applicable).
A separate document may be attached if necessary.*

[illegible]

PART B:

Explain how you have actively participated in the NAACP, and share whether the NAACP is still relevant in the year 2026?

[illegible]

PART C:

What actions have you taken to eradicate racism and discrimination?

PART D:

What are your future goals and aspirations?

PLEASE LIST THE NAMES AND NUMBERS OF THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD SERVE AS YOUR CHARACTER REFERENCES (TEACHER, COUNSELOR, PASTOR, ETC.):

NAME:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

1.

2.

3.

OPTIONAL: Please provide additional facts the judges should know that may be relevant to the nomination selection process.

I hereby certify all the above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Any intentional misrepresentation or omission of facts will be justification for denial of this award.

Student's Signature

Date

TIMELINE:

DATES:	ACTION ITEMS:
Tuesday, July 14, 2026	Branch Secretary sends all three awards notifications to the NAACP's distribution list (Mr. Roy Wilkins, Mr. Merlin Kennedy and Mr. Harry Hightower) via email. Committee will socialize with Black-owned businesses, African American churches, MAPS, Jack and Jill, the Divine 9.
Friday, August 14, 2026	All nomination forms are due (via email) or postmarked by Friday, August 14, 2026.
Tuesday, August 18, 2026	Selections are made.
Tuesday, August 18, 2026	Awards recipients are notified.
Friday, August 21, 2026	Media release announcing all recipients.
Saturday, September 12, 2026	Awards presented at the 2026 FFB.