



## KIDSBRIDGE CREATIVE CHARACTER EDUCATION YOUTH COMPETITION—2016

**2016 Theme: STAND UP for Diversity...How I Include and Respect Others**

### COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention New Jersey Superintendents, Principals, Teachers and School Counselors / Grades 2-8:

On the heels of last year's successful, inaugural, statewide competition, Kidsbridge is pleased to announce the Second Annual Kidsbridge Creative Character Education Youth Competition. The theme for 2016 is **STAND UP for Diversity...How I Include and Respect Others**. In three different creative categories, students are challenged to express this year's theme via an essay, a poster or a 30-second PSA video.

Please review the following information carefully, as significant changes have been made in the processing and submission of forms and entries.

There are five important documents relating to this year's competition. Nominators, you may want to print them out so there are no surprises. They include:

- 1. Competition Announcement** — This overview document (which you are likely reading now), contains general information about this year's competition, highlights the important documents that you'll need and provides background information about Kidsbridge.
- 2. Rules & Specifications** — Contains very specific information about the rules relating to the contest, age brackets and entry options, the specifications and expectations of participation.
- 3. Directions for Naming & Submitting Entries ONLINE** — Mailed entries will not be accepted this year. Specific naming instructions and entry uploading procedures are described here.
- 4. Online Entry/Permission Form** — Contains information about the nominator and student nominee; school and type of entry and age category; to be filled out by the nominator.
- 5. Parent/Guardian Permission Form** — Educator nominators are responsible for getting this form signed by parents/guardians for each child/youth participating in the competition. Educators should keep this form; when winners are announced, the signed form will need to be forwarded to Kidsbridge.

There is a PDF of each document on our website. If receiving this Announcement Letter electronically, these links will also be live.

#### **ABOUT Kidsbridge**

[www.kidsbridgecenter.org](http://www.kidsbridgecenter.org)

Kidsbridge is a nonprofit organization and hosts the only youth-focused tolerance center in the U.S. We offer developmentally appropriate programs for preschool/Kindergarten, elementary and middle school. Empathy, empowerment, social-emotional skills and diversity education programs are offered either at the Center or mobile to your school/camp. Youth participate in 'evidence-based' small group discussions/interactive activities led by trained facilitators. Topics include: bias & stereotype awareness; bullying/teasing prevention; creation of a support team; disability & LGBT issues; diversity appreciation & respect; empathy, UPstander behavior & empowerment; genocide & the Holocaust; and media literacy. Located in the Ewing Senior & Community Center in Ewing, NJ, more than 2200 students and 200 educators visit the Center each year.

Kidsbridge also offers weekly Life Skills Programs, sponsors a statewide creative character education-themed competition for youth, a statewide genocide/Holocaust-themed competition for youth, acknowledges educators for their character education leadership, regales business leaders in the community for their humanitarianism, hosts an annual day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., and presents an annual Walk2Stop Bullying. Hundreds of children, teens and adults participate in Kidsbridge programs.

**All Entries Must Be Submitted By: May 13, 2016**