



2026 AWARD APPLICATION

Recognizing 18 outstanding young people who make our communities stronger

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE

18 HONOREES

AGES 17 AND YOUNGER

About the Award

The Spencer Exchange Club's 18 Under 18 Award honors young people who shine through service, leadership, compassion, citizenship, and positive involvement. A nominee may be recognized for contributions in one or more of the four areas below. **Self-nominations are welcome, and anyone may nominate a deserving young person.**

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Age-appropriate advocacy, awareness, fundraising, mentoring, kindness initiatives, or support that helps children feel safe and valued.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteering, fundraising, neighborhood projects, charitable work, or other efforts that improve people's lives.

AMERICANISM

Citizenship, patriotism, civic responsibility, respect for veterans, appreciation of American history, or service to country and community.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Leadership or service in sports, scouting, mentoring, clubs, arts, education, recreation, or peer-support programs.

Eligibility Requirements

- The nominee must be 17 years old or younger as of December 31, 2026.
- The nominee must live in Spencer or East Brookfield, Massachusetts.
- The nominee must demonstrate a meaningful contribution in at least one award area.
- Previous recipients may apply again. They must state the year they received the award and show contributions in a different award area or meaningful new growth, accomplishments, or attributes within the same area.
- If selected, the nominee must be available to attend the award recognition at the Worcester Railers game on November 22, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
- A parent or legal guardian must sign the permission and publicity section before the application can be considered complete.

1 NOMINATION TYPE & NOMINEE INFORMATION

☐ Self-nomination ☐ Nominated by someone else

Nominee's full name		Preferred name	
Date of birth		Age on 12/31/2026	
Street address		Town	
School / program		Grade	

2 CONTACT INFORMATION

Parent / guardian		Relationship	
Phone		Email	
Nominator's name		Relationship to nominee	
Nominator phone		Nominator email	

Award Area(s)

Check every area that applies. Selection is based on the strength and impact of the contribution—not the number of boxes checked.

☐ Child Abuse Prevention ☐ Americanism ☐ Community Service ☐ Youth Programs

3 PREVIOUS 18 UNDER 18 RECOGNITION

- ☐ No, the nominee has not previously received this award.
☐ Yes. Year previously received: _____

Required for previous recipients: Describe the different award area, or the new growth, accomplishments, responsibilities, or attributes added since the prior award.

4 SERVICE, ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

A. Describe the nominee's contribution. What did the nominee do? Include specific projects, activities, roles, responsibilities, dates, and approximate time involved.

B. Who benefited, and how? Explain the positive difference made for individuals, organizations, youth, or the community.

5 THE NOMINEE'S STORY

Strong applications use specific examples. Volunteer hours may be included, but impact, initiative, character, and growth are equally important. An adult may help a younger child complete the form.

A. What inspired the nominee to become involved?

B. How has the nominee demonstrated leadership or initiative? *Examples may include identifying a need, organizing others, solving a problem, taking responsibility, or encouraging peers.*

C. Describe the nominee's character. *Share examples of compassion, citizenship, perseverance, dependability, inclusion, or respect.*

D. What makes this nominee's contribution especially meaningful or inspiring?

E. What does the nominee hope to do next? *Describe future goals or how the nominee plans to continue making a difference.*

6 ADULT REFERENCE

Please provide one adult, other than a parent or guardian, who can verify the nominee's involvement. Examples: teacher, coach, advisor, program leader, volunteer coordinator, or community member.

Reference name		Organization / role	
Phone		Email	

7 OPTIONAL SUPPORTING MATERIALS

You may include up to three supporting items. Please submit copies only; materials may not be returned.

☐ Letter of support ☐ Photo ☐ Certificate ☐ Flyer / program ☐ News article ☐ Other: _____

8 CERTIFICATION & PERMISSION

NOMINATOR CERTIFICATION — I certify that the information in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that submission does not guarantee selection and that the review committee may verify information with the reference or listed organizations.

Nominator signature		Date	
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PARENT / GUARDIAN PERMISSION — I give permission for my child to be considered for the 2026 18 Under 18 Award and for the committee to contact the references provided.

- ☐ If selected, I permit publication of my child's name, age, town, photograph, and an approved summary of accomplishments.
☐ If selected, please contact me before any photograph or identifying information is published.

Parent / guardian signature		Date	
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PRIVACY NOTE — Applicants should not disclose personal experiences of abuse. Sensitive personal information will not be used in public recognition materials.

9 FINAL CHECKLIST & SUBMISSION

- ☐ All required fields are complete ☐ Eligibility confirmed ☐ Availability for the November 22 recognition confirmed
☐ Previous award year/new contribution addressed, if applicable ☐ Adult reference included ☐ Required signatures included

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2026

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO

Exchange Club of Spencer

PO Box 219 | Spencer, MA 01562

Email: exchange18under18@gmail.com

Thank you for helping us celebrate young people who make Spencer and East Brookfield shine.