

PLTW Community Impact Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

This document answers questions you may have about submitting a nomination for the PLTW Community Impact Award. If you have a question that isn't included here, please contact the PLTW Solution Center at 877.335.7589 or solutioncenter@pltw.org.

2025-26 PLTW Community Impact Award nominations open on Monday, January 5, 2026, and close on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. PT.

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Submitting a PLTW Community Impact Award nomination

1. What is the PLTW Community Impact Awards Portal?

The [PLTW Community Impact Awards Portal](#) is a secure web-based system that houses the submission information for your nomination.

2. Why do I need to create a login?

Creating a login allows you to create and submit your nomination for the PLTW Community Impact Awards through the secure portal. Registering for the portal is the only way to submit a nomination.

3. How do I create a login for the PLTW Community Impact Awards and submit a nomination?

- a. Visit the [PLTW Community Impact Awards Portal](#).
- b. Click **Submit Nomination** and then **Need to create an account?**
- c. Fill out the form to create an account.
- d. Review the [nomination worksheet](#) to check that you have the information needed to complete your nomination.
- e. Select **Submit Nomination**.
- f. Fill out the nomination in its entirety.
 - a. Should you need to stop in the middle of your nomination and wish to continue your submission later, select **Save**.
 - b. The 2025-26 PLTW Community Impact Award portal closes Friday, February 27, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. PT. You cannot submit your nomination after that time.
- g. Once you've entered all information, select **Submit**.
- h. Congratulations on submitting a nomination!

4. Can I download the nomination form?

Yes. The Community Impact Awards [nomination worksheet](#) includes all fields on the nomination form. You may use the worksheet to collect relevant information and draft your nomination. However, nominations must be submitted through the [PLTW Community Impact Awards portal](#) to be considered.

5. What makes a winning project?

We are looking for projects that demonstrate strong student leadership, go above and beyond what is included in the PLTW curriculum, and have a meaningful and lasting impact on the community. For examples of projects from past years, please visit [this YouTube playlist](#) to watch videos of previous Community Impact Award winners and [this blog post](#) to read about the 2024-2025 Outstanding Projects.

6. Why do I need to confirm that I have required consents or approvals to submit a nomination?

The Community Impact Award submissions include spaces for nominators to share student identifying information, such as student names and photos or videos in supplemental documents. Therefore, PLTW asks all nominators to confirm that they have the consents or approvals required by their school and district to share the information included in the submission.

If you are unsure of what your school or district requires, please reach out to your school or district's privacy team or other appropriate department to confirm requirements before submitting a nomination. When submitting a nomination, please follow your school or district's policies and/or requirements.

7. Why do I need to give PLTW permission to publicly share information and media from my submission?

PLTW receives many outstanding nominations for the Community Impact Awards, and we would like to publicly share and celebrate as many exemplary student projects as possible. This may include sharing information about students' projects in communications on social media, our website, and in reports. For example, please see [this blog post](#) about 2024-25 Outstanding Projects.

In your submission, please indicate in Step 8 if PLTW has permission to publicly share information from the submission. If you agree that PLTW can use student images from the submission, you will also need to collect and submit signed release forms for PLTW to use images of students in our communications. Downloadable copies of the release forms are linked in the [nomination worksheet](#). Release forms can be uploaded in Step 7 along with the supporting documents and images.

8. I have started my nomination, but I need to finish it later. What are my options?

Select **Save** to be able to make changes to the application. Please note, you must submit your nomination by selecting **Submit** by Friday, February 27, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. PT. If you select Submit on the last page of the application, you cannot return to the document to edit or add content.

9. Can I make changes to my nomination once I have selected Submit?

To make changes to your nomination after you have selected Submit, reach out to solutioncenter@pltw.org. The Team will unlock your nomination for additional edits within the portal.

Edits need to be made and the nomination re-submitted by Friday, February 27, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. PT. Late submissions will not be considered for PLTW Community Impact Awards.

10. I submitted a nomination for a project last year. Can I submit again for the same project this year?

Yes, you can submit a nomination for the same project in multiple years if students who are leading the project are still enrolled in PLTW courses at your school.

11. Can I nominate more than one project?

Yes, you can nominate more than one project using the same steps outlined above.

12. How many students can I include in a nomination?

You can nominate one student responsible for the project, or multiple students for one project. There is no limit to the number of students that can be included in one nomination.

13. I submitted a project to the Presidential AI Challenge. Can I also submit the project for the PLTW Community Impact Awards?

Yes. As long as the project was created for the Presidential AI Challenge, you can also submit the project for the PLTW Community Impact Awards.

14. When will I know the status of my nomination?

Recipients will be notified in April 2026 with the PLTW Community Impact Award Winners being publicly recognized in May 2026.

PLTW Community Impact Award Scoring & Award Decisions

15. How will nominations be reviewed and scored?

There are four sections of the nomination that will be reviewed and scored: Impact, Leadership and Collaboration, Solution Design, and Sustainability. Please see the [nomination worksheet](#) for the full list of submission requirements and a description of each section that will be scored during review.

A working group of PLTW team members will review nominations. Reviewers will score each section of the submission separately, assigning each section a score between zero and five points, with the sections weighted as shown below.

Section	Weighting
Impact	25%
Leadership & Collaboration	25%
Solution Design	25%
Sustainability	15%
Overall Impression	10%

Reviewers will score nominations based on the extent to which submissions address the questions listed in each section of the nomination form. The overall impression score will be based on reviewers' assessment of the extent to which the nomination meets the purpose of the PLTW Community Impact Awards in terms of showcasing students as community leaders, connecting students' PLTW skills to project impacts, and including PLTW coursework as a substantial component of the project.

16. How many projects will be selected as winners?

We'll select two winners for the 2025-26 Community Impact Awards: One middle school winner and one high school winner.

17. How will winners be recognized?

Community Impact Award winners will receive:

- A plaque and PLTW gift recognizing the recipient's outstanding achievement.
- A celebratory recognition event.
- Public recognition of the recipient's award through PLTW's website and communications.

Award recipients also have the opportunity to:

- Be featured in PLTW stories, promotions, and communications.
- Be recognized and honored at PLTW events.

18. Will PLTW recognize submissions that did not win?

Yes! While only two projects will be “winners”, PLTW is committed to celebrating the accomplishments of all PLTW students who are nominated for a PLTW Community Impact Award. All students included in a nomination for the PLTW Community Impact Awards will receive a card recognizing their achievement and a small gift from PLTW. Submissions that receive high scores, even though they are the winning submissions, may be featured in PLTW communications.

19. What are the additional benefits of applying for a Community Impact Award?

Applying for a Community Impact Award offers meaningful benefits to all who submit a nomination, including opportunities to:

- Utilize the Community Impact Award [nomination worksheet](#) as a tool to identify areas for improvement and elevate student projects
- Share your PLTW success with your community
- Showcase how you inspire and engage your students
- Highlight outstanding student work
- Demonstrate the value of PLTW to your school and district
- Celebrate your school’s commitment to PLTW