

The Lions Children of Courage Awards Program is now established as an important and extremely worthwhile project of Lions Clubs in our District.

What are the Lions Children of Courage Awards?

- The Children of Courage awards recognize a very special group of children and their families. There are many awards that recognize the achievements of young people, however children with 'special needs' were not catered for. These awards are especially designed to recognize the courage and bravery shown by these children every day. The Children of Courage Awards are not a competition. Every recipient of an award is a "winner" in his or her own right, as the recognition of these young peoples' achievements will:
- Act as an encouragement for their future, help them to believe in themselves, and help to increase their self-worth

All Children want to be accepted by others, regardless of any special needs they may have. These awards will portray them as children who have successfully overcome additional barriers which face them in this world.

Categories of Awards

There are four (4) categories for which a child may be nominated:

- **Special Needs**
Children with special needs who have shown courage in the face of adversity. Such Children include those who are confined to wheelchairs, who are sight, hearing, or speech impaired, or have undergone long periods of medical treatment, surgery or hospitalization, which has perhaps brought pain and trauma to their young lives.
- **Courageous Act or Deed**
A child who without regard for personal safety, has been instrumental in the preservation of life and/or property, or has rendered assistance at an accident, or whose concerns for others is worthy of recognition. This category may also include children who have undergone lifesaving surgery, or undergone daily medical treatments i.e. diabetes. A child who acts as a carer for a parent may be recognized under this category.
- **Sibling Recognition Award**
This category is for siblings who actively participate in the daily care for their brother or sister who has a 'special need'.
- **Inspiring Sporting Achievement**
For children who have overcome great personal hardship/disadvantage to compete as an individual or team member in their chosen sport.

Nominations:

In every community there are certain to be worthy nominees for a Lions Children of Courage Award. Nominations are forwarded through local Lions Clubs for consideration and approval and are restricted to children aged between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Lions Clubs who may wish to participate may obtain an information kit from the District Chairman