

Inspiring Teens®

The Complete Guide to the Cover & Scholarship Contest

Everything you need to know — for teens, parents, and photographers.

inspiringteens.com | leslie@inspiringteens.com | Think Like an Icon.

What Is Inspiring Teens Magazine?

Inspiring Teens Magazine is a national print and digital publication celebrating teens ages 13–19 for their character, leadership, creativity, and impact. We feature the ones who lead with heart — the ones whose stories deserve a national stage. Over the years we've featured athletes and artists, entrepreneurs and scholars, & movers and shakers. Our publication is truly for the next generation of Leaders, Instigators and High Achievers.

Now in our 10th year with 100+ issues published, we have awarded over \$200,000 in merit-based scholarships and donated over \$100,000 to nonprofit partners — all funded by the people who already believe in them.

"Watching Kenli plan and strategize for the Inspiring Teens Scholarship was fun! She immediately knew that she wanted to win and needed to be serious about it. Overall, the Inspiring Teens Magazine scholarship is about so much more than just a magazine cover. It encourages self reflection, self growth and confidence."

— Kelli Jenkins, Mom of Kenli Jenkins — Issue 100 Cover Winner & \$1,000 Scholarship Recipient

Who Gets Nominated & Why

Most teens are nominated by parents, photographers, coaches, educators, and community members who see something worth celebrating. Every nomination is reviewed personally by our founder, Leslie Conway.

We are looking for:

- Character — who they are when no one is watching
- Leadership — how they show up for others
- Impact — what they are building, creating, or changing for themselves or others
- Story — something specific and real that sets them apart

You do not need a perfect GPA, a long list of clubs, or a viral social media following. You need a story worth telling. We have featured activists, entrepreneurs, caregivers, community builders, athletes, artists, & scholars. What they all have in common is that someone believed in them enough to say — this one belongs on a national stage.

What the Contest Looks Like — The 10-Day Timeline

Once a teen accepts their nomination, here is exactly what happens after they are nominated:

1. Accept the nomination — a simple form that takes about five minutes.
2. Complete a short acceptance interview — this is how we get to know your teen's story. Think of it as a mini college essay, but we guide you through every question.
3. The contest opens — all teens launch on the same day so every participant starts at zero at the same time. Fair, clean, and exciting.
4. Share the voting link — with family, friends, teachers, neighbors, coaches, and anyone who believes in your teen. Every \$5 vote moves them up the leaderboard.
5. Hit milestones — each level unlocks bigger features, interviews, and scholarship eligibility. 10 votes gets your teen published. Every level above that unlocks more.
6. The contest closes after 10 days — scholarship awards are announced, and the teen with the most votes earns the cover.

The teens who invest the most get the most out of it. But there is no wrong way to participate. Some families share the link quietly with close family and reach 10 votes in an afternoon. Others run full community campaigns. Both get published.

What Teens Can Earn

As votes increase, teens unlock expanded features and recognition:

10 Votes — Rising Star

- Half-page magazine feature
- Photo + official nomination highlight
- Published in national print and digital formats

25 Votes — Impact Leader

- Full-page magazine feature
- Acceptance interview published on the ITM Blog

50 Votes — Editorial Spotlight

- Full two-page personal interview spread
- Full interview & 6 images published on the ITM Blog

100 Votes — Scholarship Eligible

- Official Scholarship Eligibility
- Two full magazine spreads
- Full interview & 6 images published on the ITM Blog

150 Votes — Elite Honors

- Elited Honors Scholarship
- Two full magazine spreads
- Full interview & 6 images published on the ITM Blog

200 Votes — Icon Distinction

- Icon Recognition Scholarship
- Three full magazine spreads
- Full interview & 6 images published on the ITM Blog

Every teen who participates also receives:

- A Leadership Project dedicated to their issue — a resume-worthy credential for college applications
- A professional PR Pack ready for scholarship essays, résumés, and portfolios
- Access to the Strategy Lab and Leadership Lab — step-by-step tools to run their campaign
- A Google-indexed national feature — when colleges search your teen's name, Inspiring Teens Magazine is often the first thing they find

The Questions Everyone Asks

"Does it cost anything?"

There is no cost to your family. Ever. The \$5 votes are paid voluntarily by the community that rallies around your teen — family, friends, teachers, neighbors. Think of it like a fundraiser, except the money goes toward teen scholarships, magazine production, and nonprofit partners. If your teen wins a scholarship, it is funded entirely by their community's support.

- A \$5 vote is less than a daily Starbucks or Dunkin.
- Scholarships are capped at \$1,000 — every vote above that still supports other teens and nonprofit partners.

"Is this legitimate?"

Inspiring Teens Magazine has been publishing nationally for ten years across 100+ issues and has awarded over \$200,000 in scholarships to teens across the United States. You can Google us & read every interview and article we have ever published at inspiringteens.com.

- Ten years. 100+ issues. \$200,000 in scholarships awarded.
- Every process is transparent — the scholarship winners, the past issues, the leaderboard, all of it is public.
- Pull up inspiringteens.com. Everything is there.

"Will anyone actually see this?"

The magazine is available in print and digital formats and is indexed nationally online. When someone Googles your teen's name, their Inspiring Teens feature is often the first result that comes up — seen by colleges, scholarship committees, employers, and anyone else who searches for them. That kind of positive visibility does not go away.

- It is not a local paper. It is a national publication with readers across the country.
- Every feature lives online permanently — it follows your teen in the best possible way.
- Colleges Google applicants. This is what they will find.

"What if my teen doesn't win anything?"

Every teen who reaches just 10 votes is published in the magazine. Publication is not contingent on winning. Your teen's photo, their story, and their name will appear in a national print and digital publication regardless of where they finish. The scholarship is the goal. The publication is the guarantee.

- 10 votes is grandma, grandpa, two aunts, and a few friends. It is very reachable.

- The scholarship is a bonus. The feature is what every teen walks away with.
- Even without a scholarship, your teen has a national credential for college applications, scholarship essays, and their portfolio.

"How much time is this really going to take?"

As much or as little as you choose. The contest runs for 10 days. The tools and step-by-step guidance are all provided — your teen is never left figuring it out alone. Some families share the link quietly with close family and reach 10 votes in an afternoon. Others run full community campaigns. Both get published.

- The teens who put in the most get the most out of it — but there is no wrong way to participate.
- ITM sends everything your teen needs to run their campaign. It is all laid out for them. If they are struggling, we will work with them to plan out a successful campaign that meets their interests.
- 10 days. That is it. The credential lasts forever.

"What does my teen actually have to do?"

Once they accept the nomination, they complete a short interview so we can tell their story. Then when the contest opens, they share their voting link with their community and let the people who already love them show up. The Strategy Lab and Leadership Lab walk them through every single step. We're here for them to help strategize if none of the examples work for them personally.

- The hardest part is accepting that people want to support them. Most teens are surprised by how much their community shows up.
- We give them caption templates, posting schedules, and everything they need. They do not have to figure everything out.
- Think of it as a 10-day leadership project. Everything they do during those 10 days belongs on their college application.

"What about pictures?"

The image submitted with your nomination is the first thing the world sees — it appears on your voting page, in the magazine, and on the blog. Whether it was taken by a professional photographer or someone who simply captured you at your best, it is the first impression of your story. Make it one that feels like you.

- You'll have the opportunity to add another image in your acceptance interview
- Complete your personal interview and you can submit four more images — we love seeing every side of who you are.
- We love featuring teen's favorite images. There are plenty of photo opportunities throughout the entire experience.

What Happens After the Contest

The feature does not end when the contest closes. This is where the long game begins.

- The issue publishes in print and digital formats — your teen's story reaches readers nationally.
- Their Google footprint is established — colleges, scholarship committees, and future employers will find their ITM feature when they search your teen's name.
- Their PR Pack is ready to include in every college application, scholarship essay, and portfolio they submit.
- Their Leadership Project credential goes on their résumé as recognition from an external national organization — something admissions officers notice.

- Past ITM honorees have used their features in scholarship applications, college essays, and professional portfolios for years after their issue closed.

"Being featured in Inspiring Teens helped me to push out of my comfort zone and learn how to truly communicate with people and advocate for myself for something that I really believed in. It has been a true journey of leadership and self communication that was all worth it!" — Kenli Jenkins — Issue 100 Cover Winner & \$1,000 Scholarship Recipient

How to Get Started

Adult: Nominate a Teen

Go to inspiringteens.com/nominate. The form takes about five minutes. Tell us one specific thing about why this teen belongs on a national stage — and we will take it from there.

Teen: Accept a Nomination

Go to inspiringteens.com/accept. Complete the short acceptance interview and receive your contest start date. Check your email — everything you need will arrive there.

Questions? Email leslie@inspiringteens.com

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