Make A Difference Day Awards 2014 Official Rules

The 2014 Make A Difference Day will be on October 25, 2014.

Eligibility. Subject to the additional restrictions below, the Make A Difference Day Awards 2014 (the “Event”) is open to all U.S. residents including active military members and their family members if stationed outside the U.S. (excluding residents of Puerto Rico) who are 8 years or older at the time of entry. Employees and contractors of USA WEEKEND (“Sponsor”), USA TODAY, Gannett Co., Inc., Points of Light, Newman’s Own, and each of their respective affiliated companies, and advertising and promotional agencies, and the immediate family members of, and any persons domiciled with, any such employees or contractors, are not eligible to win.

How To Enter a Project. To submit your project, complete an official entry form between June 1, 2014 (or the date the Make A Difference Day website is live) and Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014. The official entry form is available online at www.makeadifferenceday.com and in the Make A Difference Day brochure. Please include your name, organization (if applicable), mailing address, daytime phone, email address, location where your Make A Difference Day project will be held or where it occurred on Make A Difference Day, Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014 (or Sunday, Oct. 26, only if for religious reasons you are not able to conduct your project on Oct. 25) and include a description of your volunteer project, why you decided to conduct this volunteer project, how many people volunteered, how many people were helped by your project, why your volunteer project will have long-term effect, and how you heard about Make A Difference Day. Only one (1) entry per volunteer project. All entries must be received by Nov. 30, 2014.

Internet Entry: Enter by visiting the Make A Difference Day Award official registration page at www.makeadifferenceday.com, completing all of the required information and following all posted instructions. Complete the entry form and any other required fields and then submit your entry. Multiple entrants are not permitted to share the same email address. Your computer must accept cookies, or any successor or similar technology, which may be used for the purpose of entry tracking. Ad blocking software on your computer needs to be disabled so that it doesn’t interfere with processing your entry.

Mail Entry: Complete an Official Entry Form available in the Make A Difference Day brochure and mail the form to: USA WEEKEND, Make A Difference Day, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA 22107. All mailed entries must be postmarked by Nov. 30, 2014 and received by Dec. 3, 2014. No facsimiles or mechanical reproductions permitted. Only one (1) entry per stamped envelope.

All entries become property of Sponsor and none will be returned. By entering, you agree to the terms of these Official Rules and to receive e-mails from Sponsor or those directed by Sponsor. You can opt-out of the receipt of such e-mails by following the directions in any email received from Sponsor.

Award Recipients Selection. A panel of qualified judges selected by Sponsor will select a total of 13 Award recipients. There will be a total of 13 Award recipients; a minimum of 10 National Honorees and 1-3 Community Awardees. The entries will be judged according to the following criteria: 25% identification of a national or community service need, 25% organization of the volunteer project to effectively address the need of the project, 25% overall performance on volunteer project on Make A Difference Day, and 25% estimate of long-term impact of the volunteer project on initially identified need. Judging will be completed by March 2, 2015.

Awards. Each of the National Honorees and the Community Awardees will receive a $10,000.00 grant awarded to each Awardee’s favorite 501 (c) (3) charity, the grant may not be split among more than one charity. National Honorees and Community Awardee(s) will be featured in a special April 2015 issue of USA WEEKEND coinciding with National Volunteer Week. A representative of each National Honoree and Community Awardee will be invited to the Awards Event to be held in Washington DC during the month of April 2015 at which the awards will be presented. The cost of travel and accommodations for each representative will be paid by USA WEEKEND. Travel will include round-trip coach airfare from major US airport closest to Honoree’s or Awardee’s home; one-night double-occupancy hotel room; and $250 gift card to cover incidentals, ground transportation and meals while in Washington, DC. ARV $2,000. Trip components and air travel are subject to applicable restrictions, conditions, limitations, and blackout dates. All other costs of travel not listed above are the responsibility of the Honorees and Awardees. If representative of Honoree or Awardee is a minor, the minor must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received.

**Awardee Notification and Acceptance.** Awardees will be notified by March 2, 2015 at the telephone number, or email address provided on Awardee’s entry form. Sponsor will call during regular business hours and will leave no messages. Failure to reach Awardee by phone after three (3) attempts, failure of Awardee to respond to the email notification, or return of email notification and undeliverable may result in disqualification of Awardee, forfeiture of his or her interest in all Awards, and selection of a substitute Awardee from among all remaining eligible entries. Awardees may waive their right to receive Awards. Awards are nonassignable and nontransferable. No substitutions allowed by Awardee. Awardees are solely responsible for reporting and payment of any taxes on Awards. Awardees will be required to complete an affidavit of eligibility/liability and publicity release (except where prohibited by law) which must be returned as directed by Sponsor. Failure to sign and return the affidavit or release, or to comply with any term or condition of these Official Rules, may result in an Awardee’s disqualification, the forfeiture of his or her interest in the Award, and the award of the Award to a substitute Awardee. Except where prohibited, acceptance of any Award constitutes Awardee’s consent to the publication of his or her name, biographical information and likeness in any media for any commercial or promotional purpose, without limitation the Internet, or further compensation. Awards not won and claimed by eligible Awardees in accordance with these Official Rules will not be awarded and will remain the property of Sponsor.

**Participation.** By participating, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of Sponsor. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify persons found tampering with or otherwise abusing any aspect of this Event as solely determined by Sponsor. In the event the Event is compromised by tampering or other causes beyond the reasonable control of Sponsor which corrupts or impairs the administration, security, fairness or proper operation of the Event, Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to suspend, modify or terminate the Event. Should the Event be terminated prior to the stated expiration date, Sponsor reserves the right to award Awards based on the entries received before the termination date. Sponsor will not be responsible for incomplete, lost, late, postage-due, misdirected or illegible entries, poor quality photos, or for failure to receive electronic communications due to transmission failures or technical failures of any kind, including, without limitation, malfunctioning of any network, hardware or software, whether originating with sender or Sponsor. The authorized account holder of the e-mail address submitted at time of entry will be considered the entrant. An “authorized account holder” shall mean the natural person assigned to such e-mail account by the Internet access provider, online service provider, or other organization responsible for assigning e-mail addresses for the domain associated with such e-mail account. A potential Awardee may be requested to provide proof that he or she is the authorized account holder of the e-mail address associated with a winning entry. In the event of a dispute, all online entries will be deemed to have been submitted by the owner of the ISP account from which they were sent. For these purposes, an ISP account holder shall mean the natural person assigned to such ISP account by the Internet access provider, online service provider or other organization responsible for assigning ISP addresses for the domain associated with such ISP account. Any questions regarding the number of entries submitted by the owner of an ISP account shall be determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion.

**Construction.** The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these rules shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. In the event that any such provision is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable, these rules shall be construed in accordance with their terms as if the invalid or unenforceable provision was not contained therein.

**Sponsor.** The Make A Difference Day Awards 2014 is sponsored by USA WEEKEND. The decisions of Sponsor regarding the selection of Awardees and all other aspects of the Awards shall be final and binding in all respects. Sponsor will not be responsible for typographical, printing or other inadvertent errors in these Official Rules or in other materials relating to the Awards. For a list of Awardees (available by March 15, 2015) or a copy of these Official Rules, visit www.makeadifferenceday.com or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to “Awardees List/Official Rules” (as applicable), USA WEEKEND, Make A Difference Day Awards, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA 22107. If you have any questions regarding this Event, please contact Angela Henry at ahenry@usatoday.com.

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR TO WIN. SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.**