



## **Rising Leader Award**

**Voices Against Injustice (VAI)** celebrates today's champions of human rights by presenting the annual Salem Awards, stewarding the Salem Witch Trials Memorial, and inspiring members of our worldwide community to confront fear and social injustice with courage.

**The Rising Leader Award** is given each year to up to two young people in the Salem community who have demonstrated the courage to confront social injustice. By doing so, the Rising Leader exemplifies the mission of Voices Against Injustice, to honor the legacy of the Salem Witch Trials and to recognize acts of bravery that illustrate the lessons learned from them.

### **Who is eligible?**

Any young person who resides in Salem, attends a Salem school, or participates in a community-based program in Salem.

### **Who nominates the Rising Leaders?**

A teacher, guidance counselor, program leader, or adult engaged in a school or community-based program in Salem may nominate a qualified young person for the Rising Leader Award. The Rising Leader nomination form is attached and should be sent in with the nomination package or emailed to the addresses below by **February 15, 2023**.

### **What is required for nomination?**

1. Nominator Statement
2. Nominee's Statement

### **How are recipients chosen?**

Rising Leader Award recipients are chosen based on a review of the completed nomination package which includes the documents listed above. All nominees will be reviewed by the VAI Awards Committee using a Rising Leader nomination rubric, then voted on by the Board of Voices Against Injustice. A member of the Awards Committee will contact the RLA recipients to confirm that each will accept the award.

### **What is the Award?**

Each Rising Leader selected will receive \$500 and a book related to the theme of human rights and social justice.



## **Rising Leader Award Nomination Form**

Thank you very much for supporting a Rising Leader from the Salem community whose actions and work support human rights and social justice.

To nominate a young person for the Rising Leader Award, please fill out the information below and attach the documents listed. You may either email or mail the completed package to one of the addresses below.

**The nominee must be a young person either residing in Salem, attending a Salem school, or participating in a Salem after-school or community-based program.**

Please enclose with this form:

**1. Nominator Statement:**

Describe how the actions of the nominee for the Rising Leader Award exemplify the lessons of the Salem Witch Trials and relate to human rights and social justice (up to 250 words).

**2. Nominee's Statement:**

Respond to the topic below in an essay (up to 250 words) describing how you confront fear and social injustice with courage. What issue is most important to you now, and why? What are you doing about it?

**Both sections named above must be submitted by the deadline in order for the nomination to be considered. Incomplete nominations won't be considered.**

**We recommend communicating with your nominee about their nomination and collecting their portion to submit together with yours.**

Nominations for the Rising Leader Award must be emailed by February 15, 2023 to [nominations@salemaward.org](mailto:nominations@salemaward.org)

or mailed and postmarked by February 15 to:

Voices Against Injustice  
Rising Leader Award  
P.O. Box 8484  
Salem, MA 01970

Thank you for your support of Voices Against Injustice and the rising leaders of our community!

## Nominator Section

### Nominee Information

Name	
School or community program	
Age or grade	
Email	
Phone	
Mailing Address	

### Nominator Information

Name	
Organization and title	
Relationship to nominee	
Email	
Phone	

### Nominator Statement

Use this question to present the evidence making your nominee deserving of the award. Please be as specific as possible with concrete examples. Describe how the actions of the nominee for the Rising Leader Award exemplify the lessons of the Salem Witch Trials and relate to human rights and social justice. (Please attach a statement of up to 250 words).

## Nominee's Section

Name	
Phone number	
Name and contact information of adult mentor, teacher or supervisor, other than the person nominating you, who knows about your service to the community and could provide additional observations. This person may not be a parent, guardian, relative or member of the same household.	
Mailing address	

**Short essay answer in 250 words or fewer), attach response in an additional document.**

Salem's "Witch Trials" are an example of what happens when fear dominates reason, resulting in violence, imprisonment and death. If only people had stood up for these women and men.

How do you challenge injustice and stand up for others? What issue is most important to you now, and why? What are you doing about it?