



Inspiration Awards

benefiting
step up

GUIDING GIRLS
TO THEIR SUCCESS

ONE EVENT. TWO CITIES.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

Los Angeles – Skirball Cultural Center

NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Chicago – Morgan Manufacturing

<http://suwn.org/inspiration-awards>



ABOUT STEP UP



“My mentors did not have a career path set when they were in high school or in college. Their career paths were unexpected and that gives me hope that I will figure out my career path, too.”

— RANA SALEH, STEP UP TEEN

We guide every girl to their success.

No one destination fits all, so why would one path fit all? At Step Up, we help girls achieve their unique visions of success. We create safe, brave spaces for girls to connect, learn, and grow alongside supportive mentors (and each other).

Through our free mentorship programs in person, online, and on demand, girls experience more than just mentorship. They find community, feel empowered to expand their horizons, and develop the skills they need to navigate life's path with confidence.

By the end of 2026, we've committed to reach 3,000 teens and young women annually through programs that guide girls to be confident, connected and career-ready.

INSPIRATION AWARDS' LEGACY OF CELEBRATING MENTORSHIP



Inspiration Awards celebrated executives like Margie Moreno, who reflected on the powerful lifecycle of mentorship, as well as actors Mandy Moore and Storm Reid, who participated in flash mentorship onstage.



2025 Teen Honoree Cree shared her story about how Step Up's high school mentorship propelled her to find her voice and pursue her future dream of becoming a juvenile defense lawyer with a dual degree in child psychology.



Guests in Chicago and Los Angeles enjoyed a reception and awards program celebrating the women and girls who inspire us. The galas gathered 800+ supporters and raised \$1,000,000 in support of Step Up mentorship programs.



At Step Up's Bloom Bar, guests connected with teens and received a flower with a quote from a Step Up girl on what makes her feel unstoppable.



Sponsor Benefit Cosmetics designed a lounge to inspire confidence! Guests flocked to their brow and touch up essentials.

PAST HONOREES AND PRESENTERS



Zoe Saldana
actress + advocate



Jessica Alba
actor, advocate +
entrepreneur



**Tracee Ellis Ross, Yara
Shahidi**
+ the cast of Blackish



Anne Hathaway
Oscar-winning actress +
advocate



Eva Longoria
actor, producer, director and
philanthropist



Mandy Moore
actress, singer + songwriter



Yvonne Orji
comedian, actor, author +
advocate



Luvvie Ajayi Jones
4x NYT bestselling author,
speaker & book coach



Gabrielle Union
author, actor + activist

PAST PARTNERS HAVE INCLUDED:

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SUN
CHIPS

T.J. MAXX

Too Faced

TOYOTA

TRINA TURK

ULTA
BEAUTY

us bank

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WARNER BROS.
TELEVISION

ENTER THE MENTORSHIP CONVERSATION

Inspiration Awards has been covered by media outlets like:

People

Los Angeles Times

The New York Times

EONLINE

GLAMOUR

Hollywood REPORTER

VARIETY

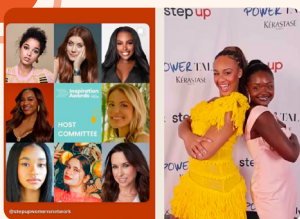
5 MORNING NEWS

5 CHICAGO

Chicago Tribune


Talent + Influencer Engagement

Talent shared **104 pieces of content** that either featured, tagged, or highlighted the event in some form, resulting in **more than 54 million potential impressions** for the event overall. Talent tagged Step Up in **83 pieces of content**, resulting in **more than 45 million potential impressions** for the organization's handle.



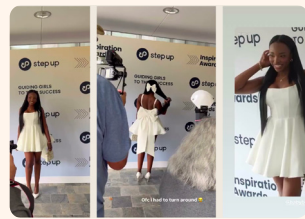
 **Nia Sioux** 5.8M followers



 **Kate Walsh** 4.2M followers



 **Storm Reid** 2.8M followers



 **JaNa Craig** 2.5M followers

BRAND ACTIVATIONS THAT ENGAGE

Brand lounges connect our influential guests with Inspiration Awards sponsors.



Women's Foot Locker:

The brand invited guests to add their personal inspirations to the #OnOurWay wall to receive a gifted pair of sneakers.



Coach: Craftsmen in the Coach Workshop offered leather engraving, transforming each guest's handbag into a custom keepsake!



Dermstore: Guests consulted with glow by Dermstore experts, discovered skin care regimens and tested out products before entering to win a full regime by sharing what makes them #glowwithin!



Trina Turk: Fashion partner Trina Turk's pop-up boutique had guests coveting her famous summer lifestyle. Attending notables like Julie Bowen, Linda Cardellini, Aisha Tyler, Lacey Chabert and Busy Philipps all sported the brand's latest looks.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

Step Up teen and young adult honorees go on to pursue their unique dreams of success!



Serena Astudillo
Law graduate,
The Legal Aid
Society



Kara Gooch
Manager,
Step Up



**English
Henderson**
Conflicts analyst,
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Ahja Howard
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and Step Up
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Kalen Isreal
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Manager,
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**Monica
Laddaran**
Academic Advisor,
Saint Xavier
University

READY TO INSPIRE?



Here are some of the ways our sponsors contribute to our Inspiration Awards program.

- presenting/naming rights for programmatic elements
- offer to match any donations made by employees during the event
- red carpet integration (celebrity dressing, step-and-repeat logo placement, red carpet sampling/gifting)
- host a Step Up teen or young adult to sit with your company
- invite employees to volunteer at Inspiration Awards (check-in, etc.)
- offer executives or clients a meet + greet opportunity with influential guests in the brand lounge
- blog about the event + Step Up partnership on the brand's blog
- invite members of the media, influencers or celebrities to sit with your company
- bring a social media specialist to capture the brand's participation at the event for its own social channels

2026 SPONSORSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorship includes recognition and benefits at events in both cities - Los Angeles and Chicago

Support girls on their path to success, raise brand awareness and build relationships by sponsoring Inspiration Awards.

PRESENTING SPONSOR | \$100,000 donation

Listing as presenting sponsor on all materials • Logo on red carpet
• Press release acknowledgement

STEP UP ORANGE SPONSOR | \$50,000 donation

Seating for 20 guests • Program acknowledgement • Preferred seating

PLATINUM PATHS SPONSOR | \$25,000 donation

Onsite brand activation • Honoree + Celebrity gifting
• Category exclusivity at this level

GUIDING GOLD SPONSOR | \$15,000 donation

Logo included on event materials

SUCCESSFUL SILVER SPONSOR | \$10,000 donation

Seating for 10 guests • Name listing on select event materials • Gift bag sampling
• Cover the cost of a Step Up teen girl's ticket

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Relations

Maggie Stockdale
Double Verify

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Newsum**
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LLC



ADDITIONAL STEP UP PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Group Mentorship

Engage your employees in flexible volunteerism through an Employee Engagement Partnership

Support

Step Up programming for a cohort of high school teen girls in your community

Cause Marketing

Promote your brand through a give-back campaign with Step Up

Sponsor

Step Up's mentorship programs for teens and young adults

CONTACT



step up

GUIDING GIRLS
TO THEIR SUCCESS

Jamie Kogan

VP, Development

jamie@suwn.org

310.497.3514