

Turnip the Beet Award 2023

The Turnip the Beet Award, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing and nutritious.



Who is eligible?

All Summer Meal Program sponsors that are in good standing and serve program meals in Minnesota between May 15 and September 15, 2023, including Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors, may be eligible for a Turnip the Beet Award.

How to apply

The sponsor must submit a completed [Application Form](#), one-month menu and a photo from a summer meal service. **All applications must be submitted to [Jayme Anderson](#) at the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) by August 31, 2023.**

How are applications evaluated?

Applications must clearly illustrate how the meals are appetizing, appealing and nutritious. The Application Form includes short answer questions and menu criteria based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The criteria include serving local foods, a variety of vegetables and fruit, whole grains, and low-fat and fat-free milk. MDE will submit all complete applications to USDA for consideration. USDA FNS will evaluate and score the application and notify the winners in writing. Learn more on [USDA's Turnip the Beet webpage](#).

What are the prizes?

Three award levels are available: gold, silver, and bronze. All winners will receive a certificate and will be featured on USDA's Turnip the Beet website, MDE's website and in the MDE Nutrition Program Services Bulletin.

Questions?

Questions regarding the Turnip the Beet Awards can be sent to [Jayme Anderson](#).

Resources

USDA FNS and MDE have an abundance of resources available for sponsors to help make the summer meals they serve more appetizing, appealing and nutritious:

- The [Minnesota Celebrate Farm to Summer Fact Sheet](#) includes information on how to find local farmers and how to celebrate farm to summer all summer long.
- The [Nutrition Guide for Sponsors](#) includes tips for serving high quality meals and incorporating local foods, as well as sample cycle menus.
- Team Nutrition developed a [Summer Food, Summer Moves](#) resource kit to encourage healthy eating and physical activity during the summer months.
- [Team Nutrition Resource](#)