

RISING STAR AWARD

The Rising Star Award will be presented to a new sponsor that ran a superior first or second year of SFSP or SSO operation with a menu that promoted healthy options. Your nomination should provide a summary of your operations with evidence of running a superior program. This award is open to all eligible sponsors that operated a CONGREGATE OR NON-CONGREGATE meal site in their first or second year.

To apply for this award, please submit:

- **A slide presentation**, 3-5 slides, no more than 40 words per slide plus notes as needed. **These slides are your application!** Make sure you address all of the criteria from the rubric in your slides. The presentation should give an overview of your summer program, explain how your menu promoted healthy options, site-level and/ or sponsor-level activities and events, and what you are planning for your program in 2026. Note any nutrition education and promotion you provided. Please include details about your operating dates, number and types of sites, and meals served.
- A **one-month cycle menu** that was used in your program and helped you promote healthy options. Please note the menu cycle interval, i.e., 2-week, 3-week, 4-week, etc. The rubric on the next page details the menu evaluation criteria. Make sure your menu answers the questions the rubric will pose (i.e. Was water available at no cost as all sites? Was locally grown, caught, or raised food used?). The menu does not need to meet all additional criteria.
- **Bonus: Supporting Documentation.** Supporting documentation could include but is not limited to news clips about your program, social media posts, photos, testimonials and feedback from youth, outreach and promotion materials, community statements, State Agency feedback, special events, activities at meal sites, etc.

See the rubric on the next page for the distribution of points and additional guidance in preparing your materials for submission.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Please send the presentation and all attachments in ONE email to carolinahungerinitiative@unc.edu with the title “**2025 Summer Nutrition Champion Awards – Your Sponsor/Stakeholder Name**” in the subject line of the email. Label the documents and/or attachments with the title of the award you are entering and your sponsor/stakeholder title, Ex. “**Rising Star Award – Apple County Schools**”. See the awards overview page for additional info.

All nominations should be submitted no later than Tuesday, October 21 by 5 PM.

Awardees will be recognized at the November 2025 SummerPalooza! planning summits, and may be asked to make a short presentation at a SummerPalooza! Summit. Further information regarding the presentation content will be provided to awardees. The Summer Nutrition Champion nominees will be evaluated by an independent party outside of the NCDPI School Nutrition Staff. For questions, please email carolinahungerinitiative@unc.edu.

Thank you and good luck!



Rising Star Award Rubric

Presentation Components (up to 8 points)	0 points (Sponsor does not describe this topic)	1 point (Sponsor adequately explains and describes one example if applicable)	2 points (Sponsor explains in detail and describes two or more examples if applicable)	Total Points
Clear overview of program				
Menu promotes healthy options				
Site-level and/ or Sponsor-level activities and events				
Future plans for Summer 2026				

Menu (up to 7 points)	1 point	1 point	1 point	1 point	1 point	1 point	1 point	Total Points
Promotion of healthy through program's one month menu	Sponsor provides fresh, locally grown foods (grown, caught, or raised). Farm must be GAP certified	Sponsor provides at least one hot meal per week	50% or more of fruits and vegetables served per week are fresh	Sponsor does not provide any sweet grains (cookies, cakes, brownies, etc.)	Sponsor only provides low-fat (1%) or fat-free dairy products	Water is available at no cost	50% or more whole grain or whole-grain rich food	

Bonus: Supporting Documentation	0 points	1 point	2 points
Circle one	Sponsor does not provide any relevant supporting documentation	Sponsor provides one form of relevant supporting document	Sponsor provides two or more forms of relevant supporting documentation

Bonus: Community Partnerships (1 point)	Total points:	
Describe how you partnered with other organizations to expand your reach and impact		out of 18

