

## A.C.E. (ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE OF EXCELLENCE) AWARD

The A.C.E. (Accepting the Challenge of Excellence) Award recognizes high school students who have had to overcome great physical, emotional, or social obstacles and are now eligible for high school graduation.

This is a positive program with two key objectives. First, it helps encourage students to overcome their hardships and get back on track toward a high school diploma. Second, the award recognizes those students who are often overlooked for their accomplishments. This special recognition serves as a powerful example to all students that hard work and perseverance really do pay.

This grassroots program begins at the club level as each club chooses its own A.C.E. of the Year from their A.C.E. of the Month winners. Those club winners are then submitted to the district A.C.E. of the Year chairperson for the district competition. All district A.C.E. of the Year winners are then submitted to National for a final competition and the selection of the National A.C.E. of the Year. The winner will be presented the A.C.E. Award and a \$15,000 scholarship at the National Convention. Travel and accommodations will be provided to the winner and his/her parents/guardians.

The submission deadline for the National A.C.E. Award is June 1.

Application: Complete application on Member Resources page. All district entries for the National A.C.E. of the Year must be submitted to National Headquarters by June 1.

\*Submission deadline for  
the Florida District  
is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Accepting the Challenge of Excellence Award - A.C.E.



## THE DISTRICT A.C.E. AWARD OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

### PURPOSE

The A.C.E. (Accepting the Challenge of Excellence) Award recognizes high school students who have had to overcome great physical, emotional, or social obstacles and are now eligible for high school graduation.

This is a positive program with two key objectives: it helps encourage students to overcome their hardships and get back on track toward a high school diploma; and it recognizes those students who are often overlooked for their accomplishments. This special recognition serves as a powerful example to all students that hard work and perseverance are rewarded.

The submission deadline for the National A.C.E. Award is June 1. The winner will be presented the A.C.E. Award and a \$15,000 scholarship at Exchange's National Convention. Travel accommodations will be provided to the winner and his/her parents/guardians.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Contact your local high school for a potential candidate for the award. A partial list of difficulties to overcome could include physical, language, child abuse, delinquency, and/or substance abuse.
2. Ensure the candidate will graduate from high school this year, OR complete GED classes by the age of 19, by the time of submission of application to National Headquarters (June 1).
3. Obtain school official and parent/guardian signatures.
4. Recognize the selected individual at an appropriate club meeting.
5. If you plan to enter your candidate in the district competition, be sure the A.C.E. Award chairperson has the description narrative (500 words maximum) and the candidate's two brief narratives (250 words maximum) before the deadline.
6. The district may use the same judging procedure as National Headquarters or determine its own selection process.
7. The district may select one or two (if opposite gender) candidates to submit to National Headquarters by June 1. Advise candidate that he/she may be contacted by a representative of The National Exchange Club to obtain additional information for publicity purposes.

*See note under Section 3 for candidate eligibility at the national level.*

## SECTION 1 – PREPARED BY SPONSORING CLUB OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Exchange Club of \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

*Narrative:* (not to exceed 500 words) Describe the problem and how it/they was/were overcome, include implications for the future.

We certify that the above named student has participated in listed activities and achievements and will graduate this year \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ High School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of school official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Exchange Club president

## SECTION 2 – PREPARED BY CANDIDATE

*Narrative A* (not to exceed 250 words) \*Attach additional pages as necessary.

Describe, in your own words, the event (or events) in your life of which you are most proud. (50 points max.)

*Narrative B* (not to exceed 250 words) \*Attach additional pages as necessary.

Describe, in your own words, your future plans for making your community, and the world, a better place to live. (50 points max.)

## YOUTH OF THE MONTH/YEAR AWARD

The National Exchange Club's Youth of the Month program provides Exchange Clubs with the opportunity to honor outstanding students in the community who have exhibited excellence in academics and leadership. When your club becomes involved in this worthwhile program, you are joining hundreds of other clubs across the country in an effort to identify and recognize the young leaders of our nation.

This monthly program not only enhances career opportunities for those honored, it also promotes good citizenship, a desire for greater scholastic achievement, and the development of well-rounded personalities to other young adults in the community. The project's human interest appeal will generate community-wide attention and media coverage for your Exchange Club.

This grassroots program begins at the club level as each club chooses its own Youth of the Year from their Youth of the Month winners. Those club winners are then submitted to the district Youth of the Year chairperson for the district competition. All district Youth of the Year winners are then submitted to National for a final competition and the selection of the National Youth of the Year. The winner will be presented the Youth of the Year Award and a \$15,000 scholarship at the National Convention. Travel and accommodations will be provided to the winner and his/her parents/guardians.

The submission deadline for the National Youth of the Year Award is June 1.

Application: Complete application on the Member Resources page. All district entries for the National Youth of the Year must be submitted to National Headquarters by June 1.

Submission for Florida  
District is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

\* We can submit  
a Boy & Girl for  
Florida!

# Youth of the Year Entry Form



## THE DISTRICT YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARD OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

### INSTRUCTIONS

The entry form is divided into five parts: Sections 1 and 2 address the candidate's achievements during five of his/her final six semesters in high school (this information is normally obtained from school records); Sections 3 and 4 are to be prepared by the candidate; and, Section 5 must be filled out in its entirety.

All grading should be based on a five semester period beginning with the sophomore (10<sup>th</sup> grade) year and ending with the close of the first semester of the senior (12<sup>th</sup> grade) year. Be sure to enter a score for each semester in each appropriate activity column, as well as a total.

#### Section 1a — Activities

*Student Government/Class Government* - Report on highest office held per group each semester.

*Newspaper/Annual School Publication* - Report on highest position held per publication each semester.

*Musical Organization* - "Band" denotes any musical group which is school-sponsored. "Choir" denotes any vocal group which is school-sponsored. "Orchestra" denotes a formal, symphonic musical organization which is school-sponsored, but not included in band activities. "Drum Major/Majorette" must be part of school-sponsored activity.

*Debate Activities* - "Winner" denotes any recognized award achieved as an individual, or as a member of a team, in either an inter- or intra-school competition. However, only one such victory may be counted per semester. "Team" denotes any group representing either a high school class or the high school as a whole. If the candidate receives a score as a winner and is part of a team, he/she should also receive credit for team membership.

*Stage Production* - "Performer" denotes active participation on stage as a member of a theatrical or similar school-sponsored production. "Production Crew" denotes participation in an activity necessary to support a school performance (i.e. stage hand, projectionist, makeup, etc.). Only one performance may be counted per semester.

*Athletic Teams, Club Membership* - See explanation on entry form.

#### Section 1b — Community Service Activities

*Community Organization Membership and Volunteer Service Hours* - See explanation on entry form.

#### Section 2 — Grades

Grade point average is for semester period beginning with the sophomore (10<sup>th</sup> grade) year and ending with the close of the first semester of the senior (12<sup>th</sup> grade) year. Multiply the student's G.P.A. (using the 4.0 system) by 50 to get the score for Section 2. G.P.A. may not exceed 4.0.

#### Section 3 — Special Achievements/Awards

List 10 special achievements and awards, specifying if local, state, or national. Attach a typewritten paragraph describing most outstanding achievement. This section, which can be awarded up to a maximum of 160 points, will be scored by the national judges.

#### Section 4 — Essay

Follow instructions as indicated on form. The subject of the essay will be announced by a letter from The National Exchange Club. The essay will be scored by the team of national judges, which can award the essay as many as 300 points. The essay should be attached to this form as indicated.

#### Section 5 — Certification/Information Form

Fill out as indicated. Advise candidate that he/she may be contacted by a representative of The National Exchange Club to obtain additional information for publicity purposes.

District Youth of the Year Candidate

Submitted by the Exchange Club of \_\_\_\_\_ Club # \_\_\_\_\_

National Youth of the Year Candidate

Submitted by the \_\_\_\_\_ District

**Section 1a — Activities**

*Student Government/Class Government*

President (4 points)

Other Officer (3 points)

Representative (2 points)

Committee Member (1 point)

POINTS EARNED

**Semesters**

10	10	11	11	12	

**20 points max.**

*Newspaper/Annual School Publication*

Editor (4 points)

Manager (3 points)

Staff (2 points)

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**20 points max.**

*Musical Organization*

Band (2 points)

Choir (2 points)

Orchestra (2 points)

Drum Major/Majorette (2 points)

Receiving Individual Music Instruction (2 points)

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**30 points max.**

*Debate Activities*

Winner (2 points)

Team Member (1 point)

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**15 points max.**

*Stage Production*

Performer (2 points)

Production Crew (1 point)

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**15 points max.**

*Athletic Teams*

Captain or Co-Captain (2 points), Team Member (1 point). List no more than two (2) per semester, with points earned for each. Do not include intramural sports.


**20 points max.**

*Club Membership*

(Clubs authorized and sponsored by the high school.) Officer (2 points), Member (1 point). List no more than two (2) per semester, with points earned for each.


**20 points max.**

**Section 1a Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**140 points max.**

## Section 1b – Community Service Activities

### Community Organization Membership

(Including youth groups, religious, and service organizations which meet at least once a month.) President (3 points), Officer (2 points), Member (1 point). List no more than two (2) per semester and no more than 20 hours per semester. Include list of activities performed.


20 points max.

### Volunteer Service Hours

(Such as hospital or nursing home service, Salvation Army bell-ringing, etc.) 1 point for every five (5) hours. List no more than two (2) activities per semester and no more than 20 hours per semester.


20 points max.

### Section 1b Total \_\_\_\_\_

40 points max.

## Section 2 – Grades

Grade Point Average (on a 4.0 scale) \_\_\_\_\_ x 50 = \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 2 Total \_\_\_\_\_

200 points max.

## Section 3 – Personal Achievements/Awards

Each nominee should list his/her 10 most outstanding achievements and awards, including those for athletics, scouting, talent, etc. The nominee should select the achievement he/she considers to be the most outstanding and describe why in a typewritten paragraph (*maximum 200 words*). Attach paragraph to this form.

Date	Description	Local	State	National

### Section 3 Total \_\_\_\_\_

160 points max.

(Please attach additional sheets if necessary.)

## Section 4 — Essay

Each nominee will be responsible for preparing an essay on a subject selected by The National Exchange Club. The essay must be 800–1,200 words. Although grammatical correctness and proper use of accepted rules of composition will be considered, points will be awarded primarily on the basis of the overall impact of the essay. Therefore, logical and clear development, as well as the persuasiveness, are most important. The purpose of the essay is to provide the judges with deeper insight into the character and beliefs of the nominee, and the nominee's ability to clearly communicate with the reader. Based on these impressions, judges may award the essay up to 300 points. Please attach the typewritten essay to this form.

Section 4 Total \_\_\_\_\_

*300 points max.*

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

*840 points max.*

## Section 5 — Certification and Information Form

Candidate's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

High school \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parents'/Guardians' names \_\_\_\_\_

We certify that the above-named student has participated in Section 1 activities, achieved Section 2 grades, and earned Section 3 awards and achievements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of high school official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/guardian

I certify that this candidate was selected as the Youth of the Year from among at least three (3) Youth of the Month winners selected by my club during the administrative year beginning \_\_\_\_\_, and is in strict keeping with the rules and regulations of the Youth of the Month program as provided by The National Exchange Club.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of club president

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exchange Club of \_\_\_\_\_