

# Student Recognition Criteria

The Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce has created the Student Recognition Program to recognize high school seniors for their achievements in activities that have brought significant honor to them, to their school or their community. It is the purpose of this event to shine a special light on those accomplishments.

Nominated students and their parents will be invited to the **47<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Recognition Celebration on Thursday, May 20, 2021**. This event is planned at 6:00 PM at GlenLakes Country Club following HCSB guidelines with the potential of going to our 2nd virtual event if deemed necessary. Student Sponsors and local dignitaries will also be in attendance. Students are nominated by their school administration and then will complete the scholarship application.

Application Deadline	Applications <b>MUST</b> be received at the Chamber Office by Friday, <b>March 5, 2021</b> . Applications received after the deadline may not be considered.	
School Submissions	<u>Private schools &amp; Hernando E-School</u> : nominate two (2) students; one must be in the Academic category	<u>Public schools</u> : nominate ten (10) students per school; two must be in the Academic category/ no minimum requirement in other categories
Scholarships	Scholarships opportunities will fit into specific categories. Schools do not have to nominate students in all categories. Students <i>will not</i> be considered for duplicate categories.	
Process	Scholarship awardee(s) will be honored at the Student Recognition Banquet after being voted on by a committee based on their application, essay, and any other documents provided.	

Students can be nominated in specific categories including:

- Academics
- Community Service
- Entrepreneurial
- Leadership
- Career & Technical
- The Arts

Refer to the category qualifications when nominating students. All students will be recognized but only students meeting requirements and chosen by the committee will be given a scholarship. In the event no one meets these requirements, no scholarship(s) will be given. When considering a student for submission, think out of the box as to special accomplishments and not just academic standing.

**Instructions for School Administrator:**

- 1) Review all information on this handout
  - a. Please ensure you have an understanding of the categories listed above to provide good candidates to be recognized and potentially receive a scholarship.
- 2) Please complete the section for school administrator on the 2021 Student Recognition Nomination & Scholarship Application
  - a. Give the application to the student in a timely manner, understanding they must complete the application and submit it to the Chamber Office by **March 5, 2021**.
  - b. Student will be asked to provide two additional letters of recommendation and a school transcript in addition to completing the application. They are also invited to provide copies of college acceptance letters and a portfolio for The Arts category (if nominated).

**Category Requirements:**

<p><b>Academic</b> - A student who has managed to balance schoolwork with volunteerism and leadership.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students must have a minimum of a 4.0 GPA*</li> <li>○ Class Ranking in top 10%</li> <li>○ Participation in AP or IB classes</li> <li>○ Demonstrates consistent academic improvement</li> <li>○ Dual enrollment in college courses</li> <li>○ Outstanding ACT (24 or higher) or SAT (1800+ or higher) scores</li> <li>○ Extracurricular and community service activities a plus</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Service</b> - A student who has dedicated many hours to volunteer work. There are no particular restrictions about the kind of work the student has done, but they should be able to show long-term commitment and how they have made an impact.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA</li> <li>○ Minimum of 200 hours of community service</li> <li>○ Considers quality of service; above and beyond as a meaningful benefit to community</li> <li>○ Service that has left a legacy to the community (examples: organized food drive or Relay For Life Team Captain; church; charitable organization)</li> <li>○ Recognition of accomplishment at county, state or national level</li> </ul>
<p><b>Leadership</b> - A student who has shown strong leadership skills – the ability to direct and inspire others – along with a dedication to community service.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA.</li> <li>○ Participation in Student Governance; captain of team, committee or chair event</li> <li>○ Student has demonstrated characteristics of being a strong leader</li> <li>○ Has been the recipient of a peer group honor or award in or outside school activities</li> </ul>

**Career & Vocational** - Students who pursued certain college degrees or certificates while in high school.

- Students must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA
- Recognized achievement & industry certifications in specific field (examples: robotics, bio medics, computer, culinary, automotive, cosmetology, medical, etc.)
- Application of career or technical ingenuity
- Measurable contribution to a career industry, technical project, or program that warrants special recognition
- State or National achievement in a specialized field that brings recognition to the student, school and community.

**Entrepreneurial/Business** – A student who dreams big – to have the vision, creativity, and drive to convert a new idea into a thriving business. The student also knows what it takes to make those dreams a reality.

- Students must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA
- Demonstration of entrepreneurial spirit – such as creating a start-up business or a project for an existing business/organization
- Recognition of accomplishment from employer or organization
- Participation in county, state or national business program

**The Arts** – A student who demonstrates creativity and talent in the arts, combined with other elements of student life; like academics, community service and volunteering

- Students must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA
- Artists are required to submit a portfolio with a maximum of 5 works
- Works can include animation, ceramics and glass, computer art, design, digital imagery, drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, instrumental or vocal music, drama (one-act or major production) or video & film.
- Productive Participant (on or off stage) – volunteer/ community service

**\*Please note:** requirement of minimum 4.0 GPA is for the **Academic Category only!**

For more information, please contact:

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