

## U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, and since that time, the program has honored more than over 7,500 outstanding high school seniors. The mission of the program is to recognize and honor outstanding high school seniors, and thereby encourage high attainment among all students.

For most of the program's existence, nominees have been invited to apply for recognition based upon SAT or ACT scores. As the program has grown, candidates have been invited to apply in other ways as well. Beginning in 1979, outstanding students who demonstrated ability and accomplishment in the visual and performing arts or creative writing were added to the program. Since 2013, Chief State School Officers have been invited to nominate candidates from their states for the General component of the program. Beginning in 2016, outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in CTE were included for recognition.

### GENERAL COMPONENT NOMINATION REQUEST

The Nevada Department of Education is asking each of you to nominate students from your district as candidates for the 2020 Scholars program. We will then select 10 males and 10 females for a total of 20 students for the General component of the program to submit on behalf of our State.

In this general category, we encourage you to nominate students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship, but who might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT, Arts, or CTE recognition processes. All high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2020, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.

The candidates will go through the application process, and as in the past, the 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, D.C.

It may be helpful to consider the following questions as you contemplate the selection of your nominees:

1. What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
2. Were there special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success?

In addition, it may be useful for you to know that the reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the semifinalist and Scholar evaluation levels:

- Involvement and Service (in school and community);
- Leadership and Character;
- Writing samples;
- Academic achievements;

- Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) NOMINATION REQUEST

In addition to the general nominations, we are asking each of you to nominate additional students from your district to be included as candidates for recognition for excellence in CTE. Like last year, we will submit up to five nominations in CTE. Students will be honored “on the basis of outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.”

All high school seniors who are participants of a CTE program graduating between January and June of 2020, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. Candidates who are nominated and choose to apply, and whose applications are complete, will be reviewed by a committee of qualified individuals experienced in career and technical education. The committee will choose 60 applicants to be named as semifinalists. The 60 CTE semifinalist applications will then be reviewed by the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

All 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC.

To learn more please visit [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars](#)

### NEXT STEPS

In order for students to be considered for recognition in 2019, hard copies of the nomination packets must be **received** no later than **Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. All nominees will be announced and invited to apply in mid-January 2020 by the U.S. Presidential Scholars program office; therefore, you do not need to contact the candidate. Completed applications will be due in February 2020, and Scholars will be announced at the beginning of May 2020.

Attached you will find the form for Nominations as well as the suggested CTE Criteria. Please review and include the requested information.

Hard copies of the nomination packets should be **mailed** to the Department of Education at:

Gabriel Hill  
Assistant to the Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement  
Nevada Department of Education  
700 E. Fifth Street, Suite 100  
Carson City, NV 89701

Questions can be directed to [ghill@doe.nv.gov](mailto:ghill@doe.nv.gov), or to (775) 687-9224.