

2018-2019

Student of the Year Application



Education Clearing House

2018-2019
Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
Students of the Year Program

Significant Dates

ASAP	Distribution of nomination packets to guidance counselors to all Jefferson County High Schools that are members of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce.
Thurs. Feb. 21, 2019	Nomination packet due date
Week of March 4-8, 2019 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Interview of Nominees by the Chamber of Commerce Selection Committee
Thurs. March 14, 2019	Press Release meeting at the Muni-West
Fri. March 29, 2019	Presentation of the 2017-2018 Student of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, Doubletree

2018-2019
JEFFERSON COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PROGRAM REQUIRMENTS

The Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce *Students of the Year* award is a \$1,000 scholarship to be given to two high school seniors, one from Mount Vernon Township High School and one from one of the three County Schools, who best meet the selection criteria outlined in the attached nomination form. *The Nominee must be a student and attend a school which is a member of the Chamber.* A one-year scholarship shall be awarded to the candidate deemed most qualified by the Chamber's Educational Clearinghouse Council according to the following guidelines. *Note: The award is solely based on merit.* The students will be judged based on the following criteria:

Leadership/Values	20 points
Service to community	25 points
Scholarship	25 points
Career goals	10 points
Essay	20 points

The essay portion of the application is not optional and the topic will change each year. Information regarding career goals must include information pertaining to post high school education plans.

Two payments of \$500 will be made directly to the college where the student will attend. Payments will be made in the first and second semester. The first payment will be made by August 31st. The second payment is contingent upon meeting all requirements. To receive the second installment of the scholarship, the student must maintain a 3.25 GPA and be a full-time student. The student must show documentation by sending the Chamber an official copy of the first semester's transcripts. The student must also provide proof of enrollment for each semester with the correct address/department of the college/university where the payments should be sent. The Chamber must receive the student's ID number by August 1st. The student is obligated to use the scholarship the same school year they received it. Any lapse in college/university attendance will result in forfeiture of the scholarship. Any money that is forfeited will become property of the Chamber and will not be awarded during this scholarship period.

To submit nominations for *Student of the Year*, refer to the enclosed packet. The student's application should include the cover letter, nomination form, application form (with the four items listed on the form), verification of scholarship sheet, and three (3) character references. It must be delivered to the Chamber on or before Thursday, February 21, 2019. **Nominations received after this date will not be considered.**

Character references should come from the community, school counselors, teachers or administration. At least two of the character references must be associated with the school. Please

submit all these materials in one packet to the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, located in the Municipal West Building, 200 Potomac Boulevard, Suite 4, Mt. Vernon, IL.

A Nomination Committee will screen all applicants. Final interviews will be conducted with the top students. If chosen, the Chamber will notify them prior to any public announcement made. All nominees will be publicly recognized.

The winner will be recognized at a press conference organized by the Educational Clearinghouse Council at the Muni-West Building on March 14, 2019.

On Friday, March 29, 2019, the two individuals chosen as the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Students of the Year will be recognized at the Chamber's Annual Dinner. **Student recipients MUST be in attendance to give their acceptance speech and a meal is provided for student & two parent/guardian.**

Each student will receive a certificate at the dinner in recognizing their accomplishments.

Please contact the Chamber office at 242-5725 for further information.

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Students of the Year Program

NOMINATION FORM
PLEASE NOTE: ALL INFORMATION MUST BE TYPED

Student of the Year Nominee

School

I acknowledge that this nomination is submitted with my approval for the 2018 - 2019 Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Student of the Year.

Signature of the Principal

NOMINATION PACKET

DUE DATE
THURSDAY, Feb. 21, 2019

Return To: Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
200 Potomac Blvd. Suite 4
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
618-242-5725

Application also available on the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce website;
www.southernillinois.com

2018-2019
Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
Students of the Year Program Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____

School: _____

Instructions: Number and attach answers to the following questions:

- 1.) Please describe your involvement in school curricular and extracurricular activities. List the identified activities, citing the number of years of participation and your role and responsibility with the activity and/or organization.
- 2.) Please describe your involvement in community activities. Explain your role in support of the listed activities.
- 3.) Describe your future career plans including your post high school educational training.
- 4.) Develop an essay on the following topic:

What skills and qualities do you perceive as essential to success across all career sectors, and how will you bring those back to improve the Jefferson County workforce?

This essay should be no more than 1,000 words typed or computer generated.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information given is true and correct and give permission to the Selection Committee to contact my high school for any additional information that may support my nomination. I understand that this scholarship is partly based on leadership and values. I agree to forfeit scholarship money unpaid by the Chamber should any incident occur which would lower my score for leadership/values----even if such incident happens after the press conference is held.

DATE

SIGNATURE

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SCHOOL VERIFICATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

Please have your school counselor fill in the information below and attach a high school transcript with the application.

Grade Point Average for Seven Semesters, Based on a 4-Point Scale _____.

Ranks _____ in a class of _____

ACT Score as of Application Deadline:

Composite Score _____

SAT:

Verbal Score: _____

Math: _____

Asset Composite Score: _____

Signature of School Official and Title

Return To: Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
200 Potomac Blvd. Suite 4
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

**Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
Student of the Year Character Reference**

This is a confidential reference sheet to be copied and completed by three different individuals. The person completing this reference form should seal it in an envelope and sign over the sealed flap before returning it to the student. It is not intended to be shared with the student.

This reference form is being completed for (student) _____

Person completing this reference form:

Name: _____

Title: _____

I have gotten to know this student-- (Check all that apply.)

- During the regular school day
- During extracurricular activities
- Through community service or church activities
- Through personal acquaintance

Rating Scale

Please rate the student in each of the following categories using a scale of 1 – 5. 1 = lowest score, 5 = highest score		
Honesty	Student is truthful and acts with morally sound behavior (does not lie, cheat, steal, etc.)	1 2 3 4 5
Dependability	Student behaves as expected in completing tasks and activities, can be entrusted with important responsibilities	1 2 3 4 5
People skills	Student behaves appropriately in public situations and treats everyone with respect. Student is liked, respected and has good communication skills.	1 2 3 4 5
Leadership	Student many times goes beyond the expected level of work, leads at times instead of following instructions only	1 2 3 4 5
Self-Regard	Belief that the student is free from self-destructive behaviors and does not use illegal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs	1 2 3 4 5

Other comments that would assist the scholarship committee in evaluating the candidate's character: