EXCHANGE
THE NATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB

Youth of the Year Award

High School Counselor/Student Packet

Updated 9/12/2026

General Program Information

The National Exchange Club's Youth of the Year program is a club, district, and National competition. Students who win at the club level go on to compete in the district, and possibly at the National level for the **$15,000** *Gerald and Evelyn Franklin National Youth of the Year Scholarship.*

This prestigious youth award aims to celebrate and support outstanding students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, academic achievement, and community involvement. The Youth of the Year honorees are proven to be well-rounded individuals who are not only good students but also involved. Aside from earning points for non-weighted GPA, points are given for participation in school and community organizations.

Club

Clubs select candidates from area high schools in the community. Each winner receives an award determined and approved by the Exchange Club. Youth of the Year winner(s) for a club can be advanced by the club to the district competition for consideration.

District

Districts select candidates from club winners' applications that have been advanced before the district deadline. Each winner receives an award determined and approved by the District Exchange Clubs. Youth of the Year winner(s) for a district can be advanced by the district to the National competition for consideration.

The National Exchange Club

Each district can advance up to two district winners that earn a district award to be eligible for the National competition. The National Youth of the Year winner received a $15,000 scholarship at The National Exchange Club's Convention in July. The winner must be able to attend the National Convention. The National Exchange Club will make all the travel arrangements.

Instructions to Counselors

As you prepare to nominate students for the prestigious Youth of the Year Award, we are providing you with some helpful tips and best practices to ensure a successful nomination process. Your role is crucial in identifying and supporting outstanding students who exemplify the qualities of leadership, academic excellence, and community involvement.

1 Identify Eligible Students Early

a. **Number of Nominations:** The Exchange Club in your area will determine with you the correct number of nominations for your school.

b. **Eligibility Criteria: Grade Level:** Students must be in their senior year of high school.

c. **Leadership:** Demonstrated leadership in school or community activities.

d. **Community Service:** Significant involvement in community service or extracurricular activities.

e. **Early Identification:** Begin identifying potential students early in the academic year. Look for students who consistently demonstrate leadership and community engagement.

2 Applications

a. Please ensure that all required documents, including transcripts and personal essays, are included in the application packet. Certification of these documents is not necessary.

b. Sign-off on school activities and non-weighted GPA in the application.

c. Create a separate PDF for each student.

3 Ensure Timely Submission

a. **Deadlines:** Keep track of all important deadlines for the nomination and application process. Set internal deadlines to ensure all materials are reviewed and submitted on time.

b. **Follow-Up:** Follow up with students to ensure that all parts of the application are complete and submitted by the due date.

Submission Deadline: _____ Date Back to Counselor: _____

Sponsoring Club: _____

Club Chairperson's Name: _____

Club President Name: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

SECTION 1: *Prepared by School Official/Counselor (ALL FIELDS ARE REQUIRED)*

Student's Name on Award: _____

Student Name: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Birth Date: _____

High School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

School Official Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Instructions for the Student

1. Familiarize yourself with the Youth of the Year application and process.
2. Use black ink or black printer cartridge only. Be sure your application is neat, clear, and dark as several copies are made from your original.
3. **DO NOT ATTACH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT HAS NOT BEEN REQUESTED SUCH AS RESUMES, LETTERS OF COMMENDATION, OR WORK EXPERIENCE.**
4. Read and follow instructions included in this package. These instructions are to assist you in completing all parts and must be delivered back to your counselor.
5. The counselor needs to get all Sections back to the club by the due date on page 4.
6. Please note that points in Sections 1A and 1B are given only for the highest level of achievement per semester. For example, the Captain or Co-Captain of an athletic team receives 2 points per semester.
    - You do NOT receive an additional point for being a team member.
7. Address your achievements during the five of your final six semesters in high school; this information is normally obtained from school records.
8. Your name is to appear ONLY on the Certification & Information Section. No indication of school name or student locality is to be used in your listing of awards or your essay. For example, if receiving an award from Long Beach City, indicate it only as “City” or if from Wilson High School, use “School” or Orange County, use “County.” There should be little information gleaned from the activities list or from the essay as to your identity or location.
9. You are being asked to write an essay and list your top 10 achievements/awards along with a paragraph describing your most outstanding achievement, please keep the following in mind: 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 on the judges. Therefore, logical and clear development as well as the persuasiveness of the argument presented, are most important. The purpose of the essay is to provide the judges with a deeper insight into the character and beliefs of the finalist as well as the finalist’s ability to clearly communicate with the reader.
10. Save this completed PDF as a New file and forward back to your counselor.
    - Example: YOY_YOURSCHOOL_YOURFIRSTLASTNAME
    - Email completed application to include parents signature back to your counselor.

Section 1A: Activities

List Student Government / Class Government that you are a member of, that meet or participate in service to the school. Report on highest office held per group each semester.

President (4 points)
Other Officer (3 points)
Representative (2 points)
Committee Member (1 point)

Semester

10	10	11	11	12	Total Points
					0

(20 Points MAX)

List Newspaper/Annual School Publication that you are a member of, that meet or participate in service to the school. Report on highest position held per publication each semester.

Editor (4 points)
Manager (3 points)
Staff (2 points)

Semester

10	10	11	11	12	Total Points
					0

(20 Points MAX)

List 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.

Band (2 Points)
Choir (2 Points)
Orchestra (2 Points)
Drum Major /Majorette (2 Points)
Receiving Individual Music Instructions (2 Points)

Semester

10	10	11	11	12	Total Points
					0

(30 Points MAX)

All points should be based on a five-semester period beginning with the sophomore year and ending with the close of the first semester of the senior year. Be sure to get a score for each semester in each appropriate activity column, as well as total.

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List 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. If the student receives a score as a winner and is part of a team, he/she should also receive credit for team membership.

	Semester					
	10	10	11	11	12	Total Points
Winner (2 points) **Team Member (1 point)**						0
						(15 Points MAX)

List 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. stagehand, projectionist, makeup, etc.). Only one performance may be counted per semester.

	Semester					
	10	10	11	11	12	Total Points
Performer (2 points) **Production Crew (1 point)**						0
						(15 Points MAX)

List Athletic Teams – no more than 2 per semester, points earned for each.
Do not include intramural sports.

	Semester					
	10	10	11	11	12	Total Points
Captain or Co-Captain (2 Points) **Team Member (1 Point)**						0
						(20 Points MAX)

List Club Memberships authorized by the school – no more than 2 per semester, points earned for each.

	Semester					
	10	10	11	11	12	Total Points
Officer (2 points) **Member (1 point)**						0
						(20 Points MAX)

Total Points

Section 1A: Activities Point Total (140 max): 0

All points should be based on a five-semester period beginning with the sophomore year and ending with the close of the first semester of the senior year. Be sure to get a score for each semester in each appropriate activity column, as well as total.

Section 1B: Community Service Activities

All points should be based on a five-semester period beginning with the sophomore year and ending with the close of the first semester of the senior year. Be sure to get a score for each semester in each appropriate activity column, as well as total.

List Community Organization Membership, i.e. youth groups, religious, and service organizations that meet at least 1x/month (no more than 2 per semester)

President (3 Points)
Officer (2 Points)
Member (1 Point)

Semester 10	Semester 10	Semester 11	Semester 11	Semester 12	Total Points
					0

(20 Points MAX)

List Volunteer Service Hours, i.e. hospital or assisted living facility, Salvation Army bell ringing, etc.

No more than 2 activities and 20 hours per semester - Award 1 point for every 5 hours)

Semester 10	Semester 10	Semester 11	Semester 11	Semester 12	Total Points
					0

(20 Points MAX)

Total Points

Section 1B: Community Service Activities Section Point Total (40 max.): 0

Section 2: Grades

GPA (on a 4.0 scale) _____ **x 50 =** Section 2: Total Point Grades (200 Max.): 0.00

Section 3: Personal Achievements/Awards

The nominee should list only ten(10) of their most outstanding achievements and awards, including those for athletics, scouting, talent, etc.

List of Achievements (include dates and descriptions):

Date	Description	Local	State	National
		☐	☐	☐
		☐	☐	☐
		☐	☐	☐
		☐	☐	☐
		☐	☐	☐
		☐	☐	☐
		☐	☐	☐
		☐	☐	☐
		☐	☐	☐
		☐	☐	☐

Student Achievements Essay – TO BE PREPARED BY THE STUDENT: Of the achievements listed above, select the one you consider to be the most outstanding and describe why (maximum 200 words) for **160 points maximum.**

Section 4: Essay

Each student (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 maximum. Although grammatical correctness and proper use of accepted rules of composition will be considered, points will be awarded primarily based on the overall impact of the essay. Therefore, logical and clear development, as well as 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.**

Youth of the Year Essay Prompt

"In a world that is constantly changing and ever evolving, our youth play critical roles in shaping the future of their communities. From advocating to leading, young people are taking charge and making significant impact. How have you personally contributed to society and how do you envision your future in community service?"

Note: Extra Pages to follow

Section 4: Essay Continued:

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Section 5: Counselor/Parent/Club Officer Certification

Must be filled out in its entirety.

In accordance with the established rules and regulations of The National Exchange Club, we certify that the below-named student has participated in listed activities and achievements and will graduate this year.

(Students name) _____ will graduate this

year from _____ High School

Signature of School Official

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Signature of Club President

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

For Club Use Only

Section 1A: Activities Point Total (140 Max):	0.00
Section 1B: Community Service Activities Section Point Total (40 Max.):	0.00
Section 2: Total Point Grades (200 Max.):	0.00
Section 3: Total Point Special Achievements / Awards (160 Max.):	
Section 4 – Essay (300 Max.):	
Total Points all Sections:	0.00