

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

THE DISTRICT AND NATIONAL 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.

Please note, applications must be postmarked by April 15th. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

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.)

SECTION 3 – PREPARED BY DISTRICT FOR NATIONAL NOMINEES ONLY

The above student has been selected by the _____ District as its candidate for the (year) _____ National A.C.E. Award.

Coordinating Responsibility: The following Exchange Club member from the sponsoring district, will be responsible for the nominee's attendance at Exchange's National Convention if the entry is designated a winner.

District contact _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____

Note: To win, the candidate must be able to accept the award in person, at the scheduled event, at Exchange's National Convention. Call National Headquarters for current year's date/time at 419.535.3232, and verify with the candidate before submitting the entry form to National Headquarters.

Any additional communication regarding this application will be directed to the Exchange Club member named above, unless The National Exchange Club is otherwise instructed. In accordance with the program requirements, I confirm that all the information contained herein is accurate and conforms to the rules and regulations as established by The National Exchange Club.

Signature of District President

*Along with the entry form, a photo (head & shoulders) of the nominee is required. If a digital photo is submitted, please ensure it is high resolution (150 dpi or higher). Photos submitted to The National Exchange Club will not be returned.