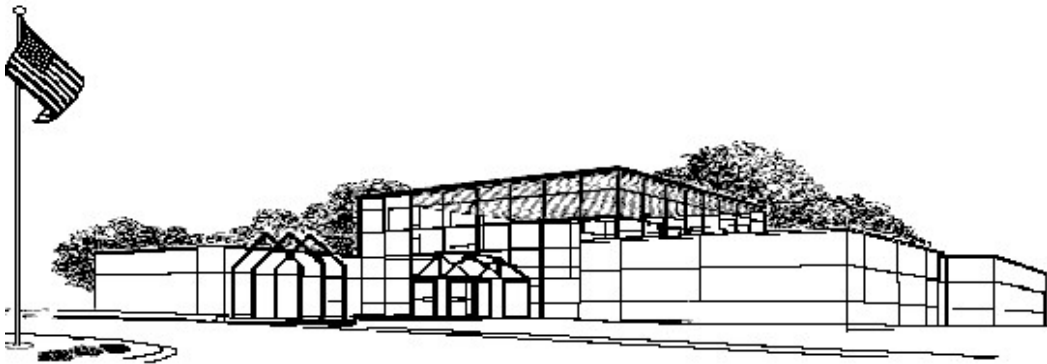


2023-2024 Jefferson County Chamber Of Commerce



Students Of The Year Program

2023-2024

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
Students of the Year Program

2023-2024 JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Significant Dates

Mon, Jan. 8, 2024	Distribution of nomination packets to guidance counselors to all Jefferson County High Schools that are members of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce.
Fri, Feb. 9, 2024	Nomination packet due date
Week of Feb. 12-16, 2024	Review of Nominees by the Chamber of Commerce Selection Committee
Week of Feb. 19 th - Week of 26 th	Interviews with Final Candidates
Tue, March 12, 2024	Press Release meeting at the Chamber office

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce *Students of the Year* award is a \$1,000 scholarship to be given to two high school seniors 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.* 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 \$500.00 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/departments of the college/university where the payments should be sent. The Chamber must receive the student's ID number by August 15th. 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:

1. A cover letter
2. The nomination form
3. The application form (with the items listed on the form)
4. Three (3) letters of recommendation.

The application must be delivered to the Chamber on or before Friday, February 9, 2024. **Nominations received after this date will not be considered.**

Letters of recommendation 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 Innovation Hub (big glass building downtown) on the 5th Floor.

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. Interviews will be held the week of February 19th and the week of the 26th please have availability one of those weeks.

On Tuesday, March 12, 2024, the winner and his or her respective Principal will be recognized at a press conference organized by the Education Council. **Student recipients MUST be in attendance.**

Each student will receive a certificate and a \$1,000.00 scholarship recognizing their accomplishments.

Please contact the Chamber office at 618-242-5725 for further information.

2023-2024
Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
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 2023 - 2024 Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Student of the Year.

Signature of the Principal

NOMINATION PACKET
DUE DATE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Return To: Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
123 S. 10th St, Ste 505
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
618-242-5725

2023-2024
Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
Students of the Year Program Application

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone #: _____

School: _____

Please provide a resume that includes:

- 1.) 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.) Your involvement in community activities. Explain your role in support of the listed activities.**
- 3.) Your future career plans including your post high school educational training.**

Develop a minimum 500 word essay:

How can our community create an enticing environment to attract and retain young adults who have graduated, encouraging them to contribute to the local development and growth?

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