



OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD REQUIREMENTS 2023-2024

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT

- Student enrolled in the 7th-9th grades and passing all subjects.
- Write a 500-word essay without notes, in the presence of, and signed by, a teacher or school official, and the student, and then signed by an ESA member.
- Letters of recommendation – from three (3) citizens of the community who are not related to the student (after local judging, the essay **may be** typewritten with necessary spelling and grammatical changes noted – the **original** handwritten essay should be attached to the typewritten essay).

Judging is based on Quality of Essay, Leadership, Community Service, and Accomplishments which made the student outstanding.

The winner of the **Oklahoma Outstanding Junior High Youth Award** will be presented with a Certificate and a cashier's check to be presented at the State Convention held in the spring. Amount of cashier's check will be budgeted and announced the previous summer. The winner of the International Outstanding Jr. High Award will receive a plaque and a \$500 savings bond. The **deadline** for entry for the Oklahoma State Council and International Council Outstanding Youth Award is **March 1**. Since the deadline for both is the same day, you must duplicate your entry. Entry packets for the International Council contest are available through ESA Headquarters or at: www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org. Entry packets for the State contest are available at www.oklaesa.org, from the State Contest Chair contest@oklaesa.org or Outstanding Youth Chair outstandingyouth@oklaesa.org.

Entries postmarked after March 1 will be disqualified. It is strongly recommended that entries be submitted via USPS Priority Mail with the tracking number emailed to the Outstanding Youth Chair.

SENIOR HIGH STUDENT

- Be enrolled as a senior high student meeting one of three academic qualifications (ranked in the upper 25% of class; have a minimum 3.0 GPA, or have a minimum ACT score of 22 or SAT score of 1030)
- Provide a copy of the most recent and "certified" transcript to verify grades and/or test scores
- Letters of recommendation – three (3) – one being from a teacher or school official
- Personal essay on "What is the definition of an outstanding individual and how do I personally meet this definition." – there is no specific length required – typewritten essays are preferred and must be an original which is signed and dated by the contestant

Judging will be based upon the student's Character, Leadership and Skills and Scholastic Ability.

The winner of the **Oklahoma Outstanding Senior High Youth Award** will receive a cashier's check and a certificate from the Oklahoma State Council to be presented at the State Convention held in the spring. Amount of cashier's check will be budgeted and announced the previous summer. The winner of the IC Outstanding Senior High Youth Award will receive \$1,000 from the International Council. This may be applied towards tuition, registration, fees, books, supplies and equipment, or any other college fees or academic expenses. The **deadline** for entry for the Oklahoma State Council and International Council Outstanding Youth Award is **March 1**. Since the deadline for both is the same day, you must duplicate your entry. Entry packets for the International Council contest are available through ESA Headquarters or at: www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org. Entry packets for the State contest are available at www.oklaesa.org, from the State Contest Chair contest@oklaesa.org or Outstanding Youth Chair outstandingyouth@oklaesa.org.

Entries postmarked after March 1 will be disqualified. It is strongly recommended that entries be submitted via USPS Priority Mail with the tracking number emailed to the Outstanding Youth Chair.

Oklahoma entries are to be mailed to:

Oklahoma Outstanding Youth Chair
Faye Alexander
9810 Aztec Dr
Norman, OK 73062
405-596-2950
fayefunnyfarm@att.net or outstandingyouth@oklaesa.org