

J. ROBERT ASHCROFT
NATIONAL
YOUTH
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM
MANUAL



Sponsored by:

AG Trust

The General Council of The Assemblies of God
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I. Overview of the J. Robert Ashcroft National Youth Scholarship Program

The J. Robert Ashcroft National Youth Scholarship Program (NYSP), sponsored by the AG Trust of The General Council of the Assemblies of God gives financial assistance to outstanding Assemblies of God youth to attend endorsed A/G colleges. The NYSP is open to high school seniors attending Assemblies of God churches. District level winners become nominees for the National Youth Scholarship. National winners are selected by the NYSP Committee on the basis of academic achievement, extracurricular activities, Christian service, and Christian character. In order to receive the scholarship money, winners must attend an endorsed Assemblies of God College the fall immediately following their high school graduation. The scholarship is granted for the first year following high school graduation.

The NYSP is administered by the NYSP Committee which is comprised of the director of the National Youth Department, the director of the Alliance for AG Higher Education, and others that qualify and are chosen to take part in the selection committee.

National winners are awarded scholarships to the endorsed Assemblies of God College/University of their choice as follows: First Place, \$8,000 (\$4,000 awarded per semester for two semesters); Second Place, \$4,000 (\$2,000 awarded per semester for two semesters); Third Place, \$2,000 (\$1,000 awarded per semester for two semesters).

I. Purpose of the NYSP

A. For the Youth

1. The NYSP encourages A/G youth to consider attending an A/G College, University or Institute.
2. The NYSP provides financial assistance to three national winners. In addition, some districts also give financial assistance to their winners.

B. For the College or Institute

1. The NYSP provides an excellent means of publicity for A/G colleges, universities, and institutes. The Program is advertised in district bulletins and Headquarters' publications to give it wide circulation among prospective A/G college students and parents. Pastors and youth pastors are encouraged to get their youth involved in the NYSP.

C. For the Church

1. The NYSP provides an opportunity for the Fellowship and its member churches to demonstrate a concern for and interest in the youth of the A/G.
2. The NYSP exists as a vehicle for effectively strengthening the church by supporting the training of its most outstanding youth as its future leaders.

II. Funding the NYSP

- A. Each district youth department will choose if they are going to financially award funds to district winners. The district youth department will establish the amount of the scholarship for district winners.
- B. The AG Trust will provide the funds for the recipients of the national scholarships.

III. Promotion of the NYSP

- A. The National Youth Department will begin promoting NYSP in the fall of each year, providing applications to DYDs to be distributed to the churches.

- B. The National Youth Department may also highlight the NYSP in other youth publications to encourage the participation of high school seniors.
- C. The Christian Higher Education Department will promote NYSP in the Headquarters' publications.

IV. Eligibility of Applicants

- A. Only high school seniors attending an Assemblies of God church and graduating from a high school in the U.S. in the year application is made to the National Youth Scholarship Program, and high school seniors living abroad as dependents of Assemblies of God appointed missionaries or chaplains, will be eligible for the scholarship.
- B. Applicants should have a good academic record (preferably be ranked in top 20 percent of the class).
- C. Applicants should be active in school and community functions and especially in church and youth group activities.
- D. It is recommended that only applicants planning to attend an endorsed A/G college, university or institute be considered for district scholarships.
- E. Only applicants planning to attend an endorsed Assemblies of God college or institute will be eligible for the national scholarships. Winners must attend an endorsed A/G college or institute the fall immediately following high school graduation in order to receive the scholarship money.

V. Application Procedures

A. Handling

1. A copy of the manual and application for the NYSP will be sent from the National Youth Department to District Youth Directors in the fall of each year.
2. District Youth Directors will duplicate and distribute applications to churches, making sure the district name and address appears on application and reference forms.
3. Applications will be accepted by district youth departments beginning November 30.
4. An applicant living abroad as a dependent of an Assemblies of God appointed missionary or chaplain should make application through the district council with which the parent(s) is(are) credentialed.
5. Completed applications must be returned to district office by Feb 10, 2017 with all supporting documents [references from pastor and high school principal or counselor, and transcript(s)].
6. Applications of district winners (maximum of 3 from each district) must be submitted to the National Christian Higher Education Department no later than March 1, 2017 to be placed in nomination for the National Youth Scholarships.

B. Application Form

1. The NYSP application form is designed to solicit information relative to the applicant's scholastic performance (academic and extracurricular), employment record, Christian life, and Christian service (leadership in Sunday school, youth group, choir, children's church, etc., and participation in Fine Arts Festival, Bible Quiz, AIM, youth camps, etc.).
2. The NYSP application form will be reviewed annually by the NYSP Selection Committee.
3. Incomplete or late applications will not be eligible for evaluation.
4. References completed by family members will be unacceptable.

VI. Selection Process

- A. The National Youth Scholarship Program Committee recommends that the District Youth Executive Committee function as the Selection Committee for the awarding of the district youth scholarship.
- B. District Youth Directors may select up to three district level scholarship winners as nominees for the NYSP, and must submit those applications to the Alliance for AG Higher Education by March 1st.
- C. The National Youth Scholarship Program Committee will choose national winners no later than May 1st.

VII. Notification Process

A. District Level Winners

District Youth Directors shall be responsible for notifying district level winners, their pastors, and high school guidance counselors and/or principals.

B. National Level Winners

The National Youth Department shall be responsible for notifying (by telephone and follow-up letter) in order:

1. NYSP winners
2. District Youth Directors
3. Winners' Pastors
4. Principals and/or guidance counselors of winner's schools
5. Presidents of colleges selected by winners

VIII. Publicity of Winners

- A. District Level Winners - District Youth Directors shall be responsible for providing news releases for district bulletins, local media and high school newspapers.
- B. National Level Winners
 1. The Alliance for AG Higher Education will assist the AG Trust office in preparing news releases on the basis of data contained in winners' applications.
 2. News releases will be sent to winners' local television and newspaper media, high school newspapers, district bulletins, Pentecostal Evangel, and other appropriate publications.
- C. The Alliance for AG Higher Education will supply the names and addresses of national level winners to the colleges indicated by the winners as their preferences.

IX. Awarding the Scholarship

A. District Level Winners

1. It is recommended that district youth departments make scholarship payments directly to the Assemblies of God College after receiving notification of the winner's matriculation at the college.

B. National Level Winners

1. Actual payment of scholarship money will be made directly to the college after the Alliance for AG higher Education is officially notified of the winner's matriculation at an endorsed A/G college.
2. In the event that a national winner chooses not to attend an endorsed A/G college the fall immediately following high school graduation, the scholarship award will not be made to that winner. A runner-up contestant will become a winner and scholarships will be adjusted accordingly.

X. Amendments

- A. Amendments may be submitted by a district youth department executive committee, members of the NYSP Committee, or members of the Alliance for AG Higher Education to the NYSP Committee for consideration.
- B. Amendments to the NYSP Manual may be made only by action of the NYSP Committee with the approval of the General Council Board of Administration.