

EXCHANGE CLUB OF ALPENA
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF SCHOLARSHIP: A.C.E. AWARD (Accepting the Challenge of Excellence)

AMOUNT OF AWARD: \$1,000

PURPOSE: The A.C.E. Award recognizes high school students who have had to overcome great physical, emotional, or social obstacles and is now eligible for high school graduation.

Application Process: Fill out the National Exchange Club Official Entry Form which includes (a narrative describing the obstacles and how they were overcome, a narrative describing the events in your life that you are most proud of and another narrative describing your plans for the future to make your community and world a better place to live). Have your High School Office sign your entry along with a Parent or Guardian. You must be graduating in 2026. Please attach a picture with your application.

Deadline: March 27, 2026

The student awarded the Scholarship in Alpena will automatically be entered into the State of Michigan Exchange Club A.C.E. award competition. The student would be eligible for another \$1,000 award from the State Exchange Club and if selected would need to be present at the State Convention. If the student won at the State level, they would be eligible for the National Exchange Club award of \$15,000.

Contacts: Please contact your High School Counselor or Tony Suszek (tonysuszek@gmail.com) of the Exchange Club of Alpena for additional information.



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A.C.E.

(Accepting the Challenge of Excellence)

High School Counselor/Student Packet



General Program Information

About the A.C.E. Scholarship Program

The A.C.E. (Accepting the Challenge of Excellence) Scholarship Program is a three-tiered competition—Local, District, and National—sponsored by the National Exchange Club, the District, and your local clubs. Students who win at the local level advance to the district competition, with the opportunity to compete nationally for a \$15,000 scholarship and a national plaque.

This scholarship honors high school students who have made a dramatic turnaround in their attitude, performance, and future outlook during their high school years. These students often overcome significant challenges—such as physical disabilities, language barriers, abuse, delinquency, or substance abuse—and yet receive little recognition for their achievements.

The A.C.E. Award shines a light on their perseverance and determination, celebrating their success as they prepare to graduate.

The A.C.E. Award is a powerful and uplifting program with two key goals:

1. To inspire students to overcome adversity and stay on the path to graduation.
2. To recognize and celebrate those who are often overlooked, showing that resilience and hard work truly matter.

This recognition not only honors deserving students but also sets a meaningful example for others in the community.

CLUB LEVEL COMPETITION

Participation in the A.C.E. Award Program is Voluntary. Each Club's Board is responsible for deciding whether to participate in the A.C.E. Award program. This includes determining:

- The level of interest in the program
- The number of scholarships the Club can offer
- The financial resources available to support participation

For full details and guidance, please refer to your Club's official guidelines.

DISTRICT LEVEL COMPETITION

Each Club may nominate two students from the Club. If your students are selected as the District A.C.E. Award winners, they must submit a high-quality 5" x 7" photo in JPEG format for publicity purposes. Winners will receive an A.C.E. Award plaque and a scholarship. They will be honored at the annual District Convention. Winners will be notified in advance regarding the time and location of the event and attendance is mandatory. If a selected student is unable to attend, the first runner-up will be named the winner in their place.

NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION

District A.C.E. Award winners will be entered into the National Exchange Club competition. One national winner will receive a \$15,000 scholarship and a commemorative plaque. The submission deadline for our district is June 1st of the award year.



Instructions for the Counselor

Please review the following key points to ensure a smooth and successful scholarship process:

1. Distribution of Scholarship Information

- a. The Exchange Club in your area will determine with you the correct number of nominations for your school.
- b. Identify eligible students and provide them with an updated application and instructions.
- c. Be sure to indicate your submission deadline.
- d. Guide the student in completing the application accurately and in a timely manner.
- e. Make sure you have a separate PDF for each Student application.

2. Verification and Graduation Certification

- a. Provide a Counselor's Narrative | SECTION 1 of the Application for each student.
 - i. Not to exceed 500 words.
 - ii. Describe in detail the students' challenge, how they overcame it, and the student's outlook for the future.
 - iii. This narrative must be typewritten.
- b. Certify that the student is eligible to graduate from high school this year.
- c. Please ensure each student application includes the signatures of school officials and parents/guardians.
- d. Note: Emphasize how your students overcame their problems and outlook for the future. The judges heavily rely on these items when grading each of the students.

3. Monitoring and Support

- a. Monitor the progress of the student you've nominated for the award to ensure a timely submission.

4. Submission Instructions

- a. Only on-time applications will be accepted.
- b. Students submit their application online or Email to include PDF.
- c. All Fields are Required.

5. Important Dates

- a. All Student Applications via Email (including PDF) or electronic form must have been submitted to the Club for consideration by:
- b. District A.C.E. event with time provided by your Club chairperson.



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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:



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Counselor's Narrative:

Narrative: (not to exceed 500 words). Describe the student's problem and how it was overcome, including implications for the future. This narrative is written by a School Official/Counselor:



Instructions for the Student

Please provide and review the following key instructions with your students to ensure a smooth and successful scholarship process:

1. Important Club Deadline

- a. Please give your completed application to your high school counselor before the date at the top of page 4. Your counselor will forward your application to the Club.

2. Familiarize Yourself with the Application

- a. If you have questions regarding the application, please contact your counselor.

3. Nomination Form

- a. **SECTION 1** | Your counselor will complete this section of the application.
- b. **SECTION 2** | Completed by You {Student}

4. Essay Requirements - Narratives A & B

- a. **Narrative A:** Describe the most significant challenge you have overcome in high school that you are most proud of.
- b. **Narrative B:** Describe how you will work to make the future a better place to live.

5. Essay Guidelines:

- a. Essays MUST be typewritten for submission.
- b. Essay word count is 250 words or less each.
- c. Your counselor can transcribe your essays if you cannot access a computer.
- d. Save this completed PDF as a New file and forward back to your counselor.
 - i. Example: 2026ACE_YOURSCHOOL_YOURFIRSTLASTNAME
 - ii. Email completed application to include parents signature back to your counselor.
- e. Note: The better the narratives look and read, the better the final evaluation.

6. Club Winner: The club will honor the winners at a local event and you will be notified.

- a. Winners will be nominated to the District for consideration of a district award.

7. District Winner: Winners from the club's will be considered for the district award.

- a. This year's winner must attend our District Convention.
- b. The winners will be notified of the time and place prior to the District Convention.

8. National Winner: District A.C.E. winner(s) (2 maximum) can be entered in the National Exchange Club's A.C.E. Contest.

- a. Winners will receive their award at the National Exchange Club Convention held in July of that year.
- b. The winners must be able to attend the National Convention. National will make all travel arrangements.



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SECTION 2 — *Prepared by Student*

Narrative A (not to exceed 250 words): Describe the biggest challenge you have overcome in high school that you are most proud of - Total 50 points.



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SECTION 2 — Prepared by Student

Narrative B (not to exceed 250 words): Describe in your own words your plans for the future to make your community and world a better place to live. Total 50 points.



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.

(Student's 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: