

**GOLDEN
EAGLE
AWARDS**

**GUIDEBOOK
2020**

Dear Golden Eagle Coordinator,

Welcome to the 2020 Golden Eagle Awards. We look forward to working with educators and students across Middle Georgia on this iconic program, now in its 43rd year. The Golden Eagle award program celebrates exceptional high school seniors for academic excellence, exemplary service and outstanding leadership — students whose volunteerism has impacted their school and community in profound and enduring ways.

The Golden Eagle has been the symbol of *The Telegraph* since 1856 when the brother-in-law of then publisher Joseph Clisby gifted him with a grand 4-foot cast pewter statue with a 92-inch wingspan weighing 691 pounds. The legendary statue has anchored *Telegraph* offices in Macon throughout the decades.

Over the course of the past two years, the Golden Eagle Awards underwent a complete revamping, and this year we face new and special challenges. On the heels of the McClatchy Company declaring bankruptcy, the *Telegraph* published a letter in the newspaper relinquishing control of the Golden Eagle Awards and implored an organization in the community to take the reins. The United Way of Central Georgia (UWCG) stepped up, and going forward, the UWCG will host the award program. This monumental change occurred in the past two weeks, compelling us to dramatically shorten the time span in which to complete the 2020 Golden Eagle Awards.

We know that the compressed timeframe presents a number of logistical challenges, and in advance, we apologize for any inconvenience it will cause. Due to the late start, the choice was made to speed up this year's awards process considerably, rather than forego the program this year.

You'll find a complete Golden Eagle calendar on page 7, with key dates that include tomorrow, **Tuesday, February 25, when the Golden Eagle nomination form goes live online. The deadline for nomination forms is Friday, March 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. when the site automatically locks and closes.**

Judging is slated for Saturday, March 21 at Northeast High School in Macon. The Golden Eagle process culminates with the award ceremony on Monday, May 4 at the Grand Opera House.

The Golden Eagle nomination form was expanded last year to provide the judges with more precise information which we'll utilize to write profiles on each winner and honorable mention recipient for the **Golden Eagle Awards special section that publishes in The Telegraph in print and online, shortly after the awards ceremony on May 4. That date has yet to be determined.**

We appreciate your school's participation and are grateful for your time and effort as you quickly choose your nominees and navigate the process with them. We're hoping for sweeping participation regionwide, public and private school students, as well those home-schooled.

Please read this guide carefully, paying special attention to the Golden Eagle calendar. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact me at jamifsgaudet@gmail.com or (478) 719-7799, or JoLee Henson at jhenson@unitedwaycg.com or (478) 621-7799.

Best regards -

Jami Gaudet
Program Manager, Golden Eagle Awards

JoLee Henson
Volunteer Coordinator, United Way of
Central Georgia

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A Golden Eagle Award is one of the most prestigious prizes for a graduating high school senior in Middle Georgia. Now in its 43rd year, the program celebrates service, scholarship and leadership. There is a proud legacy of Golden Eagle Award winners who have used their time and talent to make significant and lasting contributions to their respective schools and communities. The nomination process culminates with the **Golden Eagle Award Ceremony at Macon's historic Grand Opera House** where the winners and honorable recipients are announced.

UPDATES & CHANGES for 2020

1. Nomination form:
 - a. Nominees **WILL NOT** attach their formal senior head shot to their nomination form. Individual photos will be taken the day of the judging.
 - b. Nominees **WILL NOT** include their social security number. Winners' numbers will be obtained at a later date.
2. The nomination process begins on Tuesday, February 25 and ends on Friday, March 13 due to the upheaval in management of the Golden Eagle Awards, now being led by the United Way of Central Georgia. We understand the challenges inherent in the significantly shortened process, and appreciate your patience and understanding.
3. Judging is Saturday, March 21.
4. The Golden Eagles ceremony date is Monday, May 4. See the full Golden Eagles 2020 calendar later in the Guidebook.

PLEASE REMEMBER IMPORTANT CHANGES FROM 2019

1. New category - Social Science, to include history, political science, economics and sociology.
2. Journalism now includes Marketing and Communications.
3. Nominees in the Technology category must present a sample of their work.
4. Foreign Language category has been renamed World Languages, but remains the same.
5. Mathematics nominees will be asked to compute problems.
6. No one-year exchange student may be nominated in any category.
7. Nominees' faculty recommendation must be submitted on school letterhead. For home school students, the recommendation letter must be submitted on the association's letterhead.

TIPS & INFORMATION FOR GOLDEN EAGLE COORDINATORS

1. Typically, at the beginning of each school year high school principals and counselors in the eight-county Golden Eagle Award region are contacted to provide the name and email of their school's designated Golden Eagle Awards coordinator.

**** 2. ASAP, please submit the full name, title, email address and cell phone number of your school's 2020 Golden Eagle coordinator.**

3. Once the nomination period opens on Tuesday, February 25, the coordinator should check email regularly for Golden Eagle information and updates.

4. All Golden Eagle communication is handled through the schools' Golden Eagle coordinator. If a nominee or parent has a question, challenge or a concern, please instruct them to contact you and you will contact me. We're available to help and offer guidance when needed — jamifsgaudet@gmail.com or (478) 719-7799, or JoLee Henson at jhenson@unitedwaycg.com or (478) 621-7799.

5. Please impress upon your nominees the importance of:

Meeting the submission deadline. All nominations are dated and time-stamped. On **Friday, March 13 at 5:00 p.m. the nomination process automatically locks and closes.**

No additional nomination forms will be accepted after that time. No exceptions.

b. Being present for an interview, which is mandatory. All interviews are conducted on a single day, Saturday, March 21— no exceptions for any reason.

6. You will receive the interview schedule and further instructions after the nomination period ends and the interview schedules are created, ASAP.

7. Encourage your nominees to apprise you ASAP of a known schedule conflict on Saturday, March 21. In the event of a conflict, please contact me ASAP so we can make an accommodation. **Once the schedule is created, we will try to accommodate a change, but can't guarantee it.**

8. Your school or nominees' families may be interested in purchasing an ad in the Golden Eagles special section which publishes in print and online.

More information on the preparation and purchase of ads is forthcoming.

ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATIONS

1. The Golden Eagle competition is open to all graduating 12th-grade students in public school, private school, or who are home-schooled in eight Middle Georgia counties: Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach and Twiggs.

2. Service, scholarship and leadership are essential, foundational qualifications for a Golden Eagle nominee.

3. Golden Eagle nominees have a strong academic record, however, ultimately, the winner in each category is the individual who best uses his/her talent, ability and achievements, in relation to the category, to serve and impact his/her high school and community.

4. When selecting a Golden Eagle winner and honorable mention recipient, the judges are instructed to consider service, achievements, leadership, character and interview skills, plus any other attributes they deem important. Each panel of judges in the 13 categories is given autonomy to choose their winner and honorable mention recipient. **The judges' decisions are final.**

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. A student can be nominated in one category only.

2. Each high school can nominate only one student in each category. If you have two students equally worthy of a nomination in a single category, choose only one student.

3. It is not necessary to nominate a student in every category. **Please confine your nominations to students truly worthy of consideration.**

4. No one-year exchange student may be nominated in any category.

5. While not mandatory that all service be directly related to a nominee's category, some service must relate to the category in which he/she is nominated. Nominees should include their achievements and honors earned and their school/community service performed during their full high school career, grades 9 - 12.

GENERAL GUIDELINES TO DETERMINE A STUDENT'S QUALIFICATIONS

Service, achievement, leadership, and character should form the basis of a nomination.

A. Service: The core qualification for a Golden Eagle nominee. A record of volunteerism in the school and community, an unselfish and continuous use of time and talent to help others. Creation of, or the improvement or enhancement of a program, project, initiative or organization is evidence of service.

B. Achievement: Accomplishments, honors, and recognition represent evidence of achievement, both in school and in the community. Purpose, as applied to the student's category, persistence, and the realization of goals are of utmost importance.

C. Leadership: The hallmark of a good leader is taking initiative in constructive and beneficial programs and projects; tenacity in the face of challenges and/or problems; and a tireless effort in to fulfill responsibilities and achieve goals. Independent thinking and creative problem solving are evidence of quality leadership. Elected positions demonstrate leadership and esteem. How a nominee uses opportunities is a prime factor of consideration.

- D. Character:** The character of an individual can be judged by observing personal habits and attitudes. An appreciation of our society's moral and spiritual values and good judgment as reflected in relationships with others, is important. A nominee's ability to overcome physical, economic or environmental challenges is an additional sign of character.

NOMINATION FORM

1. It's suggested that school coordinators review the nomination form with the nominees before they begin working on it. An incomplete form will not be considered for the Golden Eagle Award, nor for honorable mention.
2. Nominees are instructed to complete the nomination form in its entirety in one sitting. The program doesn't allow for saving the document.
- 3. A nomination form is incomplete without a teacher recommendation letter, which must be submitted on school letterhead.**
4. Often, school coordinators choose to give nominees a deadline to complete their nomination form, allowing time for you to review it and provide feedback before they submit it. We know that that might not be possible in 2020 to the compressed time frame.
5. Like last year's nomination form, this year's form requires specific information, and a fewer number of top achievements is more meaningful than a long list of less important ones. Please encourage your nominees to include only their best service and achievements. The emphasis is quality, not quantity.
- 6. Please impress upon the students the importance of:**
 - a. Submitting a nomination form that is accurate and truthful. Any form containing false information will automatically be disqualified.**
 - b. Dressing appropriately for their interview. Business attire is strongly recommended.**
 - c. Being prepared for the interview.**
 - d. A performance in the Music, Drama and World Languages categories.**
 - e. Work samples in the following categories: Art, Journalism/Marketing/Communication and Technology. Problems/computations in Mathematics.**
- 7. Encourage your students to print a copy of their nomination form before submitting it in case for some reason it is not received.**
8. As stated on the nomination form that each nominee signs, all information and materials become the property of The United Way of Central Georgia and will not be returned. Information may be used for publication and/or promotional purposes.
- 9. Upon completion of their nomination form, each student will receive a confirmation message, "Thank you for your submission. Good luck."**

10. For questions specifically about the nomination form, or problems with the link or submission process, please contact Laura Stauter at lstauter@unitedwaycg.com or (\$78).

INTERVIEW

1. When the submission period ends, the nomination forms in each category are sent to the respective panel of judges for review and the interview schedule is set for each category.

2. Golden Eagle judging is held ONE DAY ONLY — Saturday, March 21 AT Northeast High School. NO INTERVIEWS ARE SCHEDULED ON ANY OTHER DAY — NO EXCEPTIONS. A nominee who is unable to interview on that day is ineligible to win a Golden Eagle award or receive an honorable mention. However, that student still be recognized as a Golden Eagle nominee.

3. Please notify your nominees of their interview time in their category promptly when you receive your school's interview schedule. The list will be sent ASAP.

4. Interviews are conducted in 15-minute intervals and are scheduled back-to-back. Generally speaking, interviews are conducted between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., but a large number of nominees in a category, or scheduling conflicts may necessitate starting earlier and/or ending later, neither of which will be known until the nomination period ends.

5. Interview times are assigned in the order in which the nomination forms are received. However, it's understandable that the nominees lead busy lives and may have another known commitment on that day, or a situation may arise unexpectedly.

6. Interview attire: Business/professional dress is expected. For boys and girls - no jeans, shorts, tank tops or flipflops. For the girls - no strapless tops, halters or spaghetti straps. Dresses or skirts should be an appropriate length.

7. We will accommodate requests for a time change that are made before we generate the interview schedules. Once the interview schedules are set and sent to the school coordinators, we will try to accommodate requests for a time change but cannot guarantee another time slot will be available.

8. A change in interview time may only be requested for specific types of conflicts, not for convenience. Acceptable reasons for requesting a different interview time include: participation in a sanctioned school event or activity such as a music, academic or athletic competition, or personally, participation in a life cycle event, like a wedding. **Conflicts necessitating rescheduling will be handled on a case-by-case basis and a change can only be requested by the school's Golden Eagle coordinator.**

9. Please tell your nominees to apprise you of a known conflict as soon as possible - or immediately if one arises. If a change is needed, please contact me at jgaudet@macon.com or (478) 744-4323.

2020 GOLDEN EAGLE CALENDAR

- Monday, February 24, 2020 — School coordinators receive new 2020 Golden Eagle Guide
- Tuesday, February 25, 2020 — Nomination form goes live at <https://www.unitedwaycg.org/golden-eagle-awards-nomination-form>
- Friday, March 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. - Online submission ends
- Saturday, March 21 — Golden Eagle Judging
- Monday, May 4 — Golden Eagle Award Ceremony
- Golden Eagle tab inserted into *The Telegraph*, publication date to be determined.

2020 GOLDEN EAGLE CATEGORIES

REQUIREMENTS, CHANGES & UPDATES

* Signifies a change or addition last year

1. ART- requires a portfolio.
2. ATHLETICS
3. CITIZENSHIP
4. DRAMA - requires a 3-minute performance.
5. ENGLISH LITERATURE
6. INDUSTRIAL/VOCATIONAL
7. JOURNALISM/MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS: name change, previously JOURNALISM - requires a portfolio.
8. MATHEMATICS - requires the computation of mathematics problems.
9. MUSIC - requires a 3-minute performance.
10. SOCIAL SCIENCE - new category in 2019, includes history, political science, economics and sociology.
11. SCIENCE
12. TECHNOLOGY - requires a sample of work such as a website, graphic design or multimedia project, etc.
13. WORLD LANGUAGES - name change from FOREIGN LANGUAGE, but the requirement for a 2-minute speech or presentation in a chosen language, followed by questions remains.

CATEGORIES & CRITERIA

ART

A nominee should demonstrate excellence using his or her creative ability in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic design, architecture, or in any other medium in the visual arts. May have provided outstanding leadership or service in his/her school or community, or inspired, encouraged or taught others through use of the visual arts.

**** A nominee in ART must bring a portfolio with three (3) samples of artwork — print or digital, for review by the judges. Please inform your nominee of this mandatory requirement in ART.**

ATHLETICS

A nominee should demonstrate excellence through outstanding performance in a physical activity, in an individual or team sport, as part of a school athletic program, or in a recreational setting. A nominee may provide service, coaching and/or leadership through team management, or make other contributions to the welfare of others through athletic activities, talent and effort. A nominee in this category should have exhibited unselfish, enduring service, exceptional sportsmanship and fair play.

CITIZENSHIP

A nominee should be cognizant of the challenges, issues and concerns in his/her school and/or community. May have demonstrated interest or passion by volunteering with a service organization, developing a special project, working to resolve a communal problem or challenge, or devoting time to activities that improve and enrich his/her school or community. A nominee in this category is regarded as a leader. May have held elected office and employed academic skills or worked creatively to accomplish goals and is considered a dependable person who embodies civic consciousness and possesses a spirit of goodwill.

DRAMA

A nominee should demonstrate excellence through outstanding service as a performer, director, writer, choreographer, organizer or crew/technical staff member in the theatrical arts. This includes acting, singing, dance, video or film. May have designed or constructed sets, created original scripts, performed on stage, aided with school or community projects, or in some way, inspired fellow students and others, and used talent for the benefit of others.

**** A nominee whose specialty is acting must perform for the judges for three (3) minutes. A set designer or technical staff member must bring renderings or samples of work. A nominee who has produced a video or film must present up to three (3) minutes of work to the judges on a computer or other device, which he/she must furnish. When possible, a live performance is preferable. Vocalists not involved in theatrical productions should be nominated in the MUSIC category. Please inform nominee of the mandatory performance or portfolio requirement in DRAMA.**

ENGLISH AND LITERATURE

A nominee may have provided outstanding service and leadership by initiating activities related to a greater appreciation and understanding of English and literature. May have employed skills to benefit a segment of his/her school and/or community. This can include tutoring, fostering a love of reading and command of the English language, or encouraging individual expression through written or electronic communication.

INDUSTRIAL-VOCATIONAL

A nominee may have provided outstanding service and leadership in industrial, business or vocational education. This effort may have involved, but is not limited to: agriculture, business, computing, construction, healthcare, marketing, family and consumer science, or trade & industrial education. Practical application, individually, or through career or service organizations that led or inspired others, is important.

JOURNALISM/MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS

A nominee should demonstrate excellence through writing, editing, news writing or reporting, or layout/design for student publications such as the school newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, or other journalistic outlets. In the community, contributions can include print or electronic media projects that benefit religious or civic groups or community organizations. A nominee must have a record of accomplishment for the benefit of his/her school or community which may incorporate marketing and communications components.

**** A nominee must bring a portfolio with three (3) samples of work for review by the judges. Please inform nominee of this mandatory requirement in JOURNALISM/MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS.**

MATHEMATICS

A nominee may demonstrate excellence by providing or contributing mathematical knowledge through individual or group research, or involvement in a project, program or initiative; by encouraging and promoting interest in mathematics; tutoring; or using computer science to benefit the school or community, and/or to help others.

MUSIC

A nominee must perform for the judges, demonstrating musical excellence in instrumental or vocal music. May have used talent, knowledge, and performance skill for the benefit of others, and may have encouraged participation in and appreciation for music in school, or in the community through a religious or civic organization. A nominee may have been the creative or inspiring force in a musical group or the originator or leader of a music-related project or program for the benefit of others.

**** A nominee must perform for the judges for three (3) minutes - either vocal or instrumental music. A vocalist who requires accompaniment must provide it. An instrumentalist must furnish his/her own instrument. We will have a music stand for nominees and a piano on site for accompaniment. Please inform nominee of this mandatory requirement in MUSIC.**

SCIENCE

A nominee may have provided outstanding service through ingenuity, or by applying the principals of chemistry, physics, biology, earth science, physiology, electronics, or other scientific areas of study. Ecological and preservation efforts also are included in this category.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

A nominee should demonstrate excellence through use of knowledge of American and/or world history, international relations, political science, economics and/or sociology for the benefit of others. Service may include participation in student government, or in local/state/federal government.

Those activities, programs or initiatives may include political campaigns; fundraising; voter registration, and advocacy; or volunteerism through service, civic or political organizations. Of prime importance is how a nominee utilizes skill, talent and time to benefit his/her school or community.

TECHNOLOGY

A nominee may have provided outstanding service in the field of computer science or technology such as multimedia, robotics, computer repair, or database management. May have provided outstanding service in school or in the community using skill and knowledge of technology to address a problem, issue or challenge. Web or graphic design and multimedia are included in this category.

**** A nominee must bring a sample of work which may include, but is not limited to a website, graphic design or multimedia project, along with a device on which to showcase it, if needed. Please inform nominee of this mandatory requirement in TECHNOLOGY.**

WORLD LANGUAGES (formerly Foreign Language)

A nominee has demonstrated excellence in the use of a second language and outstanding service as a writer, translator or interpreter in a language other than English. Judges will consider the level of advanced study, but most importantly, how a nominee uses knowledge and skill to benefit others. May be a member of a language club or made unique contributions to the advancement of language study at school or in the community, promoting multicultural understanding or better relations between/among diverse groups.

**** A nominee must be prepared to give a two (2) minute presentation or speech in his/her language of study for the judges followed by questions. Please inform nominee of this mandatory requirement in WORLD LANGUAGES.**

JUDGING

Golden Eagle judging will be held at Northeast High School in Macon ONE DAY ONLY — Saturday, March 21, 2020. No interviews are scheduled on any other day, no exceptions.

1. An independent panel of judges is selected for each of the 13 categories. The judges select the Golden Eagle winner and honorable mention recipient in their category.
2. When the nomination period ends on Friday, March 13 at 5:00 p.m., the submissions will be sorted by category and an interview schedule will be created for each of the 13 categories.

3. The order of nominee interviews in each category is determined by the order in which the nomination forms are received.

4. School coordinators will be notified of their nominees' interview times by email ASAP. Generally speaking, interviews are conducted between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., but a large number of nominees in a category or scheduling conflicts may necessitate starting earlier and/or ending later. This won't be known until the nomination period ends.

5. The judges individually review the nomination forms in their category before collectively interviewing the nominees on March 21 or 28 and selecting the winner and honorable mention recipient.

6. A nominee who is unable to interview with the judges on Saturday, March 21 is ineligible to win a Golden Eagle award or honorable mention. No exceptions. However, the student remains a Golden Eagle nominee.

7. When apprising your students of their Golden Eagle nomination, ask them to tell you immediately of a known conflict on the day of judging, or to notify you immediately, if one arises. We will accommodate requests for a time change that are made before we generate the interview schedules. Once the interview schedules are set and sent to the school coordinators, we will try to accommodate requests for a time change, but cannot guarantee another time slot will be available.

8. A change in an interview time may be requested for specific types of conflicts only, not for personal convenience. Acceptable reasons include: participation in a sanctioned school event or activity such as a music, academic or athletic competition; or personally, participation in a life cycle event, like a wedding. **Conflicts and time rescheduling will be handled on a case-by-case basis.**

9. Please discuss interview and award ceremony attire with your nominees. Business/professional attire is expected. For boys and girls - no jeans, shorts, tank tops or flipflops. For the girls - no strapless tops, halters or spaghetti straps. Dresses or skirts should be an appropriate length.

10. It is suggested that you help your nominees prepare for their interview with the judges, and when a performance or portfolio is a category requirement, you view it.

11. The decisions of the judges are final.

AWARDS

1. One winner and one honorable mention recipient is selected in each of the 13 categories.

2. The winner will receive a Golden Eagle statue and a \$1,000 check.

3. The honorable mention recipient will receive a plaque and a \$300 check.

GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD CEREMONY

1. The Golden Eagle process culminates with an annual award ceremony at Macon’s Grand Opera House on Monday, May 4, 2020.
2. The winners of the Golden Eagle award and honorable mention recipients are announced that evening, which, until then, remain a secret.
3. All nominees, by category, will introduce themselves on stage and receive a certificate. Winners receive a Golden Eagle statue and a \$1,000 check. Honorable mention recipients receive a plaque and a \$300 check. Having the students’ social security numbers in advance will enable us to present a check to the winners and honorable mention recipients on stage during the ceremony.
4. There is free and open seating at the Grand Opera House for the event.
5. Attire for the evening is professional/business. For boys and girls - no jeans, shorts, tank tops or flip-flops. For girls - no strapless tops, halters or spaghetti straps. Dresses or skirts should be an appropriate length. Sensible shoes are suggested. Nominees will walk the entire perimeter of the theater, including up and down stairs when going to and from the stage to introduce themselves and receive their certificate.

GOLDEN EAGLE SPECIAL SECTION

The Telegraph will continue to publish the Golden Eagles special section which celebrates the 2020 Golden Eagle nominees, with special emphasis on the winners, honorable mention recipients and judges. It will be a treasured keepsake for nominees and their families, reaching tens of thousands of Telegraph readers in print and online. **There will opportunities for families to buy an ad in the Golden Eagle special section.**

Shortly, you’ll receive information about how schools and families can purchase an ad in the Golden Eagle special section.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION or QUESTIONS?

Contact: Jami Gaudet at jamifsgaudet@gmail.com or (478) 744-4323.
JoLee Henson at jhenson@unitedwaycg.com or (478)621-7799

NOTES
