



## 2024 MCEF YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD INFORMATION SHEET

**EXPLANATION:** The McMinn County Education Foundation recognizes the importance of fostering leadership in our young students. Encouraging each student's growth in responsibility will provide the knowledge necessary to become a future civic and community leader. The 2024 MCEF Youth Leadership Award is being presented to reward and promote leadership abilities among the students in the McMinn County area.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 enrolled in the Athens City, Etowah City, and McMinn County public school systems are eligible to apply. Students applying should have an exemplary record of attendance, academic achievement, and good citizenship. Applicants should be well-rounded individuals who display leadership in school, community, and club activities, and are excellent peer role models.

**APPLICATION:** The student must complete the application in his/her own *legible* handwriting, **including his/her signature** on the statement that the submitted information is correct and that he/she has maintained a "C" or better average. A short essay (one page only) written by the student must be included. The essay may be typed or hand-written. The title for the 2024 essay is: ***Why is Student Leadership Important?*** No additional pages or folders of any kind may be used. Two adult references (non-family members) are also required. **These should be placed in an envelope and signed across the seal by the person completing the form before being returned to the student and MCEF.** Please know that applicants who have not followed these directions will be disqualified.

**DEADLINE:** Completed applications must be returned to the guidance counselor at the student's school by **January 29, 2024. These will be picked up from the schools on February 2, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted.** Some schools' guidance counselors may set an earlier due date. If January 29 is a snow day, the applications will be due the first day back to school. If the applicant is out sick on January 29, please make every effort to get the application to school that day or call the school to make arrangements with the guidance counselor.

**AWARDS:** Students, parents/guardians, other family members, teachers, school officials, and McMinn County Education Foundation members will be invited to a recognition ceremony during which Youth Leadership Award certificates and medallions will be presented to all winners. This ceremony will be held in April, in Townsend Auditorium at Tennessee Wesleyan University. ***Please understand that dates and event venue change***

**SELECTION:** A committee of MCEF board members, community leaders, and Leadership McMinn members will select an award winner from approximately every thirty students per school, with approximately 65 total award recipients throughout McMinn County. *This is a blind selection process; students' and parents/guardians' names and addresses are not made known to the committee. Selections are made solely on the information provided by the students and their adult references. The ratio of males and females is **not** a consideration.*

**SPECIAL EVENT:** A Youth Leadership Day on Campus will be held at Tennessee Wesleyan University in the fall. The day will include sessions with professors, a tour of the campus, lunch, and a tee-shirt (**Applicants MUST circle their shirt size on the application**) commemorating the day.

Thank you for participating in this program. We wish everyone the best of luck.



## 2024 MCEF Youth Leadership Award Reference Form

Complete this one-page application, give a copy of the reference forms to each of two adult references, write your essay, and return this to your school counselor by January 29, 2024.

Awards/Recognitions/Offices Held (grade level, school-wide, city/county, state)

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School Involvement (List clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, etc.)

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Community Involvement (List all volunteer activities, such as 4-H, scouts, church, sports, recycling, drama, etc.)

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Personal Essay (Please attach your personal one-page-only essay, either typed or handwritten.) The title of the essay should be:

*Why Is Student Leadership Important?*

Two personal references are required. Forms to be given to them are on the following two pages. Recommendation - one grade level teacher and one community member who have observed you in action. References from relatives will be disqualified.

**PLEASE PRINT NEATLY MAKING SURE THAT NAMES AND ADDRESSES CAN BE READ.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

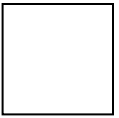
**\*\*Circle your T-Shirt Size: Sizes are all Adult S M L XL**

\*\*\*\*\*MUST BE SIGNED BY APPLICANT\*\*\*\*\*

Student's Signature

\* \_\_\_\_\_ I agree that the information submitted is correct, that my grade average is "C" or better and that no recommendation is from a relative.





## 2024 MCEF Youth Leadership Award Reference Form

This student has applied for consideration as an MCEF Youth Leadership Award recipient.  
 Your cooperation is essential to make certain the applicants are of the required caliber.  
 Please circle the areas indicated below, using the following scale:

	1 – never	5 – sometimes	10 – most of the time
Demonstrates leadership and earns respect among peers	1	2	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Shows initiative through school and/or community involvement in activities	1	2	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Recognizes personal responsibility & shows above level maturity	1	2	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Possesses awareness of and enthusiasm for growth in leadership	1	2	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Shows mature thinking in attitude & cooperation among school personnel and/or community leaders	1	2	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Please comment on applicant's leadership abilities**

This is a blind selection process. Please do not use the student's name. Use "this student," "he/she," etc.

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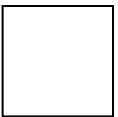
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student (Teacher, Coach, Minister, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

**(When you are finished with this form, please place it in an envelope, seal the envelope, and then write your name across the seal.)**



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