GCSAA Scholars Competition

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Postmark Application Deadline: June 1

Return completed applications to:

GCSAA Foundation

GCSAA Scholars Competition

1421 Research Park Dr.

Lawrence, KS 66049

Or by email: [mwright@gcsaa.org](mailto:mwright@gcsaa.org)

Questions? Please contact:

Mischia Wright

785-832-4445

800-472-7878, ext. 4445

[mwright@gcsaa.org](mailto:mwright@gcsaa.org)

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| Application Information | |
| background | |
| The GCSAA Foundation is a nonprofit organization fostering sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Among the programs administered by the Foundation is the GCSAA Scholars Competition. Chet Mendenhall  The Mendenhall Award is given in memory of the late Chet Mendenhall, a pioneer in the golf course management industry. A native of Kingman, Kansas, Mendenhall’s upbringing on an Oklahoma farm served him well. His career in working with the land began in 1920 as an employee of the Wichita, Kansas City Parks and Forestry Department, where he designed and built his first course despite having no previous experience with the game.  In 1928, Mendenhall accepted an invitation to become superintendent at the Wichita Country Club. It was during his tenure there that Mendenhall assisted California-based golf course architect Billy Bell in designing and constructing a new course. Smitten by the process, Mendenhall entered night school to learn surveying, drafting, bookkeeping and other related subjects.  He moved in 1934 to the Kansas City, Missouri area, where he served as superintendent of the Mission Hills Country Club for 31 years until his retirement in 1965. Mendenhall was a charter member of the GCSAA and his service to his profession included serving as a director of GCSAA from 1940-1946, vice president in 1947 and president in 1948. He was honored by the association with its Distinguished Service Award in 1986, and by the USGA in 1990 with its Green Section Award. Mendenhall passed away in 1991 and was inducted into the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame in 1996. | |
| General Information | |
| The GCSAA Scholars Program was developed to recognize outstanding students planning careers in golf and turfgrass management. Marginalized or underrepresented groups are highly encouraged to apply.  The first place winner of the competition receives a $6,000 scholarship and is honored as the **Mendenhall Award Winner**. Ten to fifteen GCSAA Scholars ($1,500-$2,500) and up to ten Merit Winners ($500) are selected to receive scholarship awards based on the final ranking in the competition.  In addition, students who are citizens of countries other than the United States may apply for the **Ambassador Award**, a special scholarship for outstanding international students. To be eligible, **students must provide documentation of non-US citizenship**, meet the eligibility requirements for a GCSAA scholarship, be enrolled in a university in the United States, and rank as one of the top candidates in the GCSAA Scholars Competition. *(Note: If the score of the highest Ambassador Award applicant is ranked 1st, then the award will go to the next highest Ambassador Award applicant.)*  The Mendenhall recipient receives an all-expense paid trip to the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show.  Applications will be reviewed by the GCSAA Scholars Competition Task Group and all decisions will be final. Applicants will be notified of their status by August 1 in the year submitted. All scholarship award checks will be made payable to the applicant and his/her educational institution. | |
| eligibility | |
| 1. An applicant must be an undergraduate student and currently enrolled in a two or more year accredited program related to golf/turfgrass management. *(Seniors graduating prior to the application deadline of June 1 are ineligible.)* 2. Applicants must have completed the first year (24 credit hours or equivalent) in a program related to golf course management. 3. Children of those employed by the GCSAA Foundation’s Board of Trustees, the GCSAA Board of Directors, and GCSAA staff are not eligible for this program. 4. **Applicants must be GCSAA member planning a career as a superintendent or a closely related professional discipline.** | |
| **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION** | |
| Applicants will be evaluated based on academic achievement, potential to become a leading professional, employment history, extracurricular activities, the recommendation of a superintendent with whom the student has worked, and a current academic advisor. Financial need is not a factor in the selection.  Previous recipients may reapply as long as they meet all eligibility standards. | |
| **HOW TO APPLY** | |
| Students must complete and submit the application form and supply the following under one cover:   1. Transcripts from all high schools, universities and post-secondary schools attended that include grades from the last completed semester. (Transcripts do not need to be official copies.) 2. The **Advisor’s Report** completed by your academic advisor or the head of the department at the school that you currently attend. The form should be in an envelope sealed by the advisor and mailed with your application. Advisor may send via email to Mischia Wright at mwright@gcsaa.org. 3. The **Superintendent’s Report** completed by a golf course superintendent for whom you have worked. The form should be in an envelope sealed by the superintendent and mailed with your application. Superintendent may send via email to Mischia Wright at mwright@gcsaa.org. 4. The essay component **must not** exceed two double-spaced pages and must not have been previously submitted to GCSAA. 5. All applications must be postmarked by **June 1** of the year of application. 6. Please follow the instructions exactly. 7. Send the application packet to:   GCSAA Foundation  GCSAA Scholars Competition  1421 Research Park Drive  Lawrence, KS 66049  Your scholarship application will be judged by its appearance. It is important to remember the following tips:   1. Read the instructions carefully. 2. Request information that you have to obtain from others early. When your school will be sending transcripts directly to us, check back with the school about a week after you make your request to make sure your transcripts have been sent. 3. If you have questions, please call 800-472-7878, ext. 4445 or email mwright@gcsaa.org. 4. Provide all the information required. Do not submit an incomplete application. 5. Do not include extra items. 6. Proof all materials and have others proof your essay. Use spell check. 7. Be neat. If you need additional pages to fully answer a question, use them. 8. Use white paper. Do not use staples or bind your application in any way. 9. Make copies of your finished application for reference. | |
| **AWARDS** | |
| Mendehall Award – 1st place | $6,000 |
| Ambassador Award | $2,500, if ranked 2nd – 5th place  $2,000, if ranked 6th or below |
| Scholars and Merit Awards | Ranging from $500 to $2,000 |

| gcsaa scholars competition application | | | | | | | | | |
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| Applicant Information – Please type | | | | | | | | | |
| Name: | | | | | GCSAA Member #: | | | | |
| Current address: | | | | | | | | | |
| Citizenship: □ U.S. □ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  *(If you answered other and would like to be considered for the Ambassador Award, please supply a photocopy of your birth certificate, passport or other valid documentation of citizenship.)* | | | | | | | | | |
| City: | | State: | | | | | | Zip: | |
| Cell Phone: | | | | | | Email: | | | |
| Hometown: | | | | | | | | | |
| School Name: | | | | | Current Major: | | | | |
| Adviser: | | | | | | | | | |
| Current Program: □ Two-year Certificate □ Associates □ Bachelors | | | | | Projected date of degree: | | | | |
| Cumulative GPA: | | | | | | | | | |
| list in chronological order high schools attended, then colleges ***(Note: All schools listed below must be documented by a school transcript.)*** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Name of School** | **Dates Attended** | | **Date of Graduation\*** | | | | **Degree** | | **Overall GPA** |
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| \*If graduation date is pending, please indicate the date you expect to graduate. | | | | | | | | | |
| Please answer the following questions | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Have you ever been dismissed from a school or placed on academic probation? □ YES □ NO   If yes, which school and the reasons for dismissal: | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. List any academic distinctions and honors you have received.   High School:  College: | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. List school or college activities in which you have participated (athletics, clubs, fine arts, school newspaper or yearbook.) Please note any honors you have received.   High School:  College: | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. List activities outside of school or college such as turf associations, clubs, organizations, community involvement, etc., and any offices held.  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **ORGANIZATION** | **OFFICE HELD** | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Name the GCSAA Student Chapter or affiliated chapter to which you belong: | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. List employment you have had and currently hold within the golf industry. Include any military experience.  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **TYPE OF WORK** | **EMPLOYER** | **FROM (MO/YR)** | **TO (MO/YR)** | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. List how you have contributed toward your own financial support or have supported someone else while in high school or college: | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. List any scholarships awarded:  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **SCHOLARSHIP** | **SPONSOR** | **DATE** | **AMOUNT** | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. I certify the information in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand the task group’s decision will be final. | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature | | | | Date: | | | | | |

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| ***Please type essay below or include as an attachment.***  ***Do not exceed two double-spaced pages that addresses the following three questions:***   1. What has motivated you to become a golf course superintendent? 2. What has been your preparation to achieve this goal? 3. What do you expect from a career as a golf course superintendent? |
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**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

To be completed by a superintendent for whom you have worked.

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| Date: | Superintendent’s name: |
| Applicant’s Name: | |
| **DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT APPLICANT** | |
| From your observations, please describe this applicant’s leadership and professional potential as a golf course superintendent. Please give specific examples. | |
| Please outline your observations describing this applicant’s ambition, work ethic and loyalty. Please give specific examples. | |
| Signature: | |
| Please enclose this report in a sealed envelope and return to the applicant in a timely fashion or email directly to Mischia Wright at [mwright@gcsaa.org](mailto:mwright@gcsaa.org) | |

**ACADEMIC ADVISOR’S REPORT**

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| Date: | Advisor’s name: |
| Applicant’s Name: | |
| **DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT APPLICANT** | |
| Has the applicant been a superior, good, indifferent, or poor citizen of the school: | |
| Does the applicant intend to pursue golf course management as a career? | |
| What is the student’s class ranking? \_\_\_\_\_\_ in a class of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| Briefly describe the applicant’s leadership qualities, professional potential and his/her ability to work independently. Please give specific examples. | |
| □ I do □ I do not recommend that this student be granted a scholarship. | |
| Signature: | |
| Name of School: | |
| Please enclose this report in a sealed envelope and return to the applicant in a timely fashion or email directly to Mischia Wright at mwright@gcsaa.org. | |