

# GCSAA Scholars Competition

*Administered by*



**Application Deadline: June 1**

Return completed applications to:

Environmental Institute for Golf  
Scholars Program  
1421 Research Park Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66049

Questions?

Mischia Wright  
785-832-4445  
800-472-7878 ext. 4445  
[mwright@gcsaa.org](mailto:mwright@gcsaa.org)

## **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.

## **Allan MacCurrach**

Internationally recognized for his expertise in the turf management field, Allan MacCurrach began his career as a golf course superintendent at Valley Country Club in Warwick, Rhode Island in 1962. In 1972, he became the 45<sup>th</sup> person to receive the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent from GCSAA. MacCurrach became the PGA Tour's first agronomist in 1974 and played a leading role in establishing the standard of excellence for course conditioning at PGA Tour events. MacCurrach was named senior agronomist in 1988 and in 1994 received the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award. He passed away on January 14, 1997, at the age of 57.

# GCSAA Scholars Competition

## Application Information

### General

The GCSAA Scholars Program was developed to recognize outstanding students planning careers in golf course management.

The first place winner of the competition receives a \$6,000 scholarship and is honored as the **Mendenhall Award Winner**. The second place winner in the competition receives a \$5,000 award and is designated as the recipient of the **Allan MacCurrach Award**. The MacCurrach Award is funded by the PGA TOUR. 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.

The Mendenhall and MacCurrach recipients receive an all-expense paid trip to the Golf Industry Show.

Applications will be reviewed by the GCSAA Scholarship Committee and all decisions will be final. Applicants will be notified by mail 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 course 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 Environmental Institute for Golf's Board of Trustees, the GCSAA Board of Directors, and GCSAA staff are not eligible for this program.
4. **Applicants must be GCSAA members 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.

## How to Apply

Students must complete and submit the attached application form and supply the following under one cover:

1. Transcripts from all 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.
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.
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:

Environmental Institute for Golf  
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, call the number on the application.
4. Try and have your application arrive as early as possible.
5. Provide all the information required. Do not submit an incomplete application.
6. Do not include extra items.
7. Proof all materials. Have one or two other people proof your essay. Use spell check.
8. Type your application. If you do not have a computer or a typewriter, go to the computer lab at your school.
9. Be neat. If you need additional pages to fully answer a question, use them.
10. Use white paper. Do not use staples or bind your application in any way.
11. Make copies of your finished application for reference.

### **Checklist for a complete application**

- Carefully complete each question in application.
- Sign where indicated.
- Attach transcripts from all universities and post-secondary schools that include grades from the last completed semester. The transcripts do not need to be official.
- Attach required essays.
- Attach Superintendent Report.
- Attach Faculty Advisor Report.

### ***Deadline for Submitting Application***

Completed applications must be postmarked by June 1. Mail applications to:

Environmental Institute for Golf  
Scholars Program  
1421 Research Park Dr.  
Lawrence, KS 66049

## The GCSAA Scholars Competition Application Form

*Please type this entire form.*

**Follow the directions and fill out the form completely.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship:  US  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.)*

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

School where you are currently enrolled \_\_\_\_\_

Current Major \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Current Program:  Two-year certificate  Associates degree  Bachelors degree

Date you plan to complete this degree: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA for your major field of study: \_\_\_\_\_

List in chronological order high schools attended, then colleges. *(Note: the information provided must be documented by a school transcript.)*

Name of School	From	To	Date of Graduation*	Degree	Overall GPA (4.0 scale)

\*If pending, please indicate the date you expect to graduate.

Have you ever been dismissed from a school or placed on academic probation?  Yes  No

If so, what school and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List any academic distinctions and honors you have received:

*High School*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*College*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List school or college activities in which you have participated (athletics, clubs, school paper, fine arts, etc.). Please note any honors you have received.

*High School*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*College*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List your activities outside of school or college (turf associations, clubs, organizations, community, etc. and any offices held):

Organization	Office held

List any GCSAA student chapter or affiliated chapter to which you belong:

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List employment you have had and currently hold. Include golf and military experience only.

Type of Work	Employer	Employed	
		From (Mo/Yr)	To (Mo/Yr)

In what ways have you contributed towards your financial support or someone else's support while in high school or college?

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List any other scholarships awarded:

Scholarship	Sponsor	Date	Amount



## *APPLICANT'S STATEMENT*

Write an essay **not to 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?

**You will be penalized if you exceed two double-spaced pages.**

Name and address of your local and school newspapers:

Local newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I certify the information in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand the committee's decision will be final.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Golf Course Superintendent's Report

*This report is to be completed by a superintendent for whom you have worked. Please type.*

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

From your observations, please describe this applicant's leadership and professional potential as a golf course superintendent. (Please give specific examples.)

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Please outline your observations describing this applicant's ambition, work ethic and loyalty. (Please give specific examples.)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ GCSAA Member # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this report in a sealed envelope and return to the applicant in a timely fashion. This report must be submitted by the applicant with his/her completed application and postmarked by June 1.

# Academic Advisor's Report

*Please type entire form.*

Applicant's name \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(highest is 1) (number in class)

Please briefly describe the applicant's leadership qualities, professional potential and his/her ability to work independently. (Please give specific examples.)

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I do  I do not  recommend that this student be granted a scholarship.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose this report in a sealed envelope and return to the applicant in a timely fashion. This report must be submitted by the applicant with his/her completed application and postmarked by June 1.**