



FLORIDA DISTRICT EXCHANGE CLUBS

DISTRICT
YOUTH OF THE YEAR
AWARDS
MANUAL
2025-2026

MUST BE A SENIOR TO ENTER

**ONLY THE FORMS IN THIS MANUAL WILL BE ACCEPTED
AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL**

Deadline for submission April 15, 2026

The complete application must be **TYPED** and E-mailed to Brian Leonard,
Florida District VP of Youth & Awards, at flxcawards@gmail.com
If you have questions call Cell: 954-909-3751

For the Florida District Exchange Club to release your scholarship funds you will need to provide, to the acting treasurer, your college class schedule, a mailing address for where the check will be mailed and to whom the check should be made payable, (Name of College) or to the scholarship winner.

Winning club Will be responsible for a minimum of 1 room for 1 night, Friday Dinner & Saturday Youth Luncheon for the student & 1 chaperon

Chairperson: Brian Leonard
E-MAIL: flxcawards@gmail.com
CELL: 954-909-3751

2026 Youth of the Year

Entry Form

The Florida District and National Youth of the Year Award Official Entry Form

INSTRUCTIONS:

This entry form is divided into five parts. Sections 1 and 2 address the candidate's achievements during five of his/her final six semesters in high school. This information is normally obtained from school records. Sections 3 and 4 are to be prepared by the candidate. Section 5 must be filled out in its entirety.

All grading should be based on a five-semester period beginning with the sophomore (10th grade) year and ending with the close of the first semester of the senior (12th grade) year. Make sure to enter a score for each semester in each appropriate activity column as well as a total score.

Section 1a – Activities

Student Government/Class Government – Grade on basis of highest office held per group each semester.

Newspaper/School Publications – Grade on basis of highest position held per publication each semester

Musical Organization – This category denotes participation in any school-sponsored musical group. Choir denotes any school-sponsored vocal group. Orchestra denotes any formal school-sponsored symphonic musical organization, but not included in band activities. Drum major/majorette must be part of a school-sponsored activity.

Stage Production – Performer denotes active participation on stage as a member of a theatrical or similar school-sponsored production. Production Crew denotes participation in an activity necessary to support a school-sponsored performance (i.e. stage manager, director, costumes, make-up, and projectionist). Only one performance may be counted per semester.

Athletic Teams – Participation points for captain, co-captain, and team positions. No more than two teams listed per semester. Does not include intramural sports. Participation in high school-sponsored clubs only. Two per semester maximum, with points earned for each.

Debate Activities - Winner denotes any recognized award achieved as an individual or as a member of a team in either inter- or intra-school competition. However, only one such victory may be counted per semester. The term “team” denotes any group representing either a high school class or the high school. If the candidate receives a score as a winner and is part of a team, he or she should also receive credit for team membership.

Section 1b – Community Service Activities

Community Organization Membership and Volunteer Service Hours – see explanation on entry form.

Section 2 – Grades

Grade point average is for each semester beginning with the sophomore (10th grade) year and ending with the close of the first semester of the senior (12th grade) year. The score for this section will be calculated by multiplying the candidate's G.P.A. (using the 4.0 system) by 50. A candidate's G.P.A. may not exceed 4.0.

Section 3 – Special Achievements/Awards

The candidate should select his/her top 10 special achievements and awards, specifying whether each was earned at the local, state, or national level. These achievements should be described in the space provided in the entry. This section also will include a paragraph describing the candidate's most outstanding achievement.

Section 4 – Essay

The subject of the 2026 essay is:

“In a world that is constantly changing and ever evolving, our youth play critical roles in shaping the future of their communities. From advocating to leading, young people are taking charge and making significant impact. How have you personally contributed to society and how do you envision your future in community service?”

Section 5 – Certification/Information Form TYPE this form completely as indicated. The Youth of the Year candidate may be contacted by the Florida District or the National Exchange to obtain additional information for publicity purposes.

Important Reminder

Judging will be held by Zoom, on Sat. April 25, 2026, starting at 9AM. All contestants must be available for their interview time slot, that morning, to be considered for the District Award.

The winner will be invited to attend the district convention in Destin, FL May 1 & 2, 2026

Winner must provide the completed and signed nomination form to the VP of District Awards.

**Florida District
Nomination ID:**

**2026 Youth of the Year Entry Form
Entry Cover Sheet**

Name of Youth of the Year Nomination:

Male____ Female____ DOB_____ Address_____

Student: Cell Phone: Email:

Parent: Cell Phone: Email:

Mailing Address:

Sponsoring Exchange Club:

Exchange Club Contact Name:

Cell Phone:

E-mail address:

**Florida District
Nomination ID:**

Part I: 2026 District Youth of the Year Candidate Nomination Form

Section 1a – Student Activities

Directions: Indicate your school participation, by grade year, by placing an “X” in each of the appropriate boxes. Your total points** will be tallied by the program judges.

Student/Class Government 20 points max.	Sophomore Semester 1	Sophomore Semester 2	Junior Semester 1	Junior Semester 2	Senior Semester 1	Total Points**
President (4 points)						
Other Officer (3 points)						
Representative (2 points)						
Committee Member (1 point)						
Newspaper/Annual School Publication 20 points max.						
Editor (4 points)						
Manager (3 points)						
Staff member (2 points)						
School-sponsored Musical Organizations 30 points max.						
Band (2 points)						
Orchestra (2 points)						
Choir (2 points)						
Drum major/Majorette (2 points)						
Receiving Individual Musical Instruction (2 points)						
Debate Activities 15 points max.						
Winner (2 points)						
Debate team member (1 point)						
School-sponsored Stage Production 15 points max						
Performer (2 points)						
Production crew (1 point)						
Athletics List no more than two (2) per semester, with points earned for each. Do not include intramural sports. 20 points max						
Team captain or Co-Capt. (2 points)						
Team member (1 point)						
School-sponsored Club Membership – List no more than two per semester 20 points max						
Club Officer (2 points – 2 clubs)						
Club Member (1 point – 2 clubs)						

Section 1a Total _____ 140 points maximum

**Florida District
Nomination ID:**

Part I: 2026 District Youth of the Year Candidate Nomination Form

Section 1b – Community Service Activities Instructions

I: This section includes candidate participation in youth groups, religious or service organizations, or other community-sponsored clubs or groups. Eligible clubs must meet at least once per month. Indicate key purpose/activity of each organization. Include list of activities performed. Your total points (20 points maximum) will be tallied by the program judges.

Community Organization Participation	Grade 10 Semester 1	Grade 10 Semester 2	Grade 11 Semester 1	Grade 11 Semester 2	Grade 12 Semester 1	Total Points 20
President (3 points) Org. Name:						
Other Officer (2 points) Org. Name:						

Include List of activities performed:

Volunteer Service.

NOTE: Volunteer Service includes volunteer work in hospitals, nursing homes, home services, Elder Care, Hospice, service organizations, Salvation Army. Candidate earns 1 point for every 5 hours work. List no more than two activities per semester, maximum of 20 hours per semester. Section maximum points: 20.

Community Organization Participation (Cont'd.) - Volunteer Service Hours	Grade 10 Sem. 1	Grade 10 Sem. 2	Grade 11 Sem. 1	Grade 11 Sem. 2	Grade 12 Sem. 1	Total Points 20
Org. Name:						
Org. Name:						

Section 1b Total: _____ 40 points maximum

Section 2 – Grade Point Average

Grade Point Average (on a 4.0 scale) X 50 =

Section 2 Total: _____ 200 points maximum

Part I: 2026 District Youth of the Year Candidate Nomination Form

Section 3 – Personal Achievements/Awards

The candidate should select and list his/her 10 most outstanding achievements and awards, including those for academics, athletics, community service, music, and volunteerism. The candidate should also indicate the date the award/accomplishment occurred and whether was earned on a local, state, or national level.

	Date Received	Description or Award/Accomplishment	Local	State	National
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

Part I: 2026 District Youth of the Year Candidate Nomination Form

Section 3 – Personal Achievements/Awards (Continued)

Most Outstanding Award/Accomplishment:

From their “Top 10” list, the candidate should select the award/achievement that he/she considers to be the most outstanding, then write a paragraph (200 words max) describing the award/accomplishment and what it means to him/her. Write the paragraph in the space below.

My Most Outstanding Award/Accomplishment

Section 3 Total: _____ **160 points maximum**

Part I: 2026 District Youth of the Year Candidate Nomination Form

Section 4 – Essay

Each candidate will be responsible for writing and preparing an essay on the topic:

“In a world that is constantly changing and ever evolving, our youth play critical roles in shaping the future of their communities. From advocating to leading, young people are taking charge and making significant impact. How have you personally contributed to society and how do you envision your future in community service?”

Rules for the essay:

- Must be at least 800 words, no more than 1200 words
- Must be an original essay, composed and written entirely by the candidate
- Must be typed

Note: Although rules of grammar and accepted rules of composition will be considered in judging this composition, points will be awarded primarily for overall impact of the essay on the judges. Therefore, logical and clear development, as well as the persuasiveness of the argument, are most important. The purpose of the essay is to provide the judges with a deeper insight into the character and beliefs of the candidate, and the candidate’s ability to clearly communicate with the reader. Based on these impressions, **judges may award the essay up to 300 points.**

[Candidate to begin essay here]

{Candidate to continue essay here}

Section 4 Total _____ 300 points max.

GRAND TOTAL _____ 840 points max.

2026 Youth of the Year Entry

Part II: Candidate Information and Certification

This one-page Candidate Information and Certification Form must be completed in its entirety, signed, and submitted – along with the Candidate Nomination Form (Part I) - to the Florida District Vice President of Youth & Awards no later than **April 15, 2026**. Because this form includes signatures, you may submit this form unsigned by email, & bring the signed one to convention. Please **TYPE**

Candidate's Name:		
Home Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Cell:	DOB	
E-mail Address:		
Parents/Guardians:		
Cell:		
E-mail Address:		
High School:		
High School (Administrative) Contact:		
Telephone:		
E-mail		
Mailing Address:		

In accordance with the established rules and regulations of The National Exchange Club, we certify that the above-named student has participated in **Section 1** activities, achieved **Section 2** grades, and earned **Section 3** awards and achievements, as documented in the Candidate Nomination Form.

Signature of Candidate's Parent or Guardian

Signature of Candidate's High School Principal

I certify that this candidate was selected as the Youth of the Year from among at least *(3) Youth of the Month winners selected by my club during the administrative year beginning July 1, 2025 and is in strict keeping with the rules and regulations of the Youth of the Month Program as provided by The National Exchange Club.

Signature of Exchange Club President

Exchange Club of

Submit this form to: Brian Leonard

E-mail: flxcawards@gmail.com

**Florida District Exchange Clubs
2026 Youth of the Year Judging Form**

The Youth of the Year Entry is divided into five sections:

- I. Activities & Community Service**
- II. Grades and scholastic achievement**
- III. Special Achievements and Awards**
- IV. Essay**
- V. Interview with Youth of the Year judges**

Each of the contestant's nominations includes their submission in the first four sections.

Please note: Sections I and II will be tallied by the District Youth Program Team.

Your pre-convention duties as judge are to score Sections III and IV. At the zoom judging, on Sat April 25, 2026, you will also be asked to conduct and judge Section IV, the Interview.

On April 25, 2026, you and your fellow judges will complete your interviews, you and the District Youth Program VP will tally the scores for each of these five sections to determine the 2026 Florida District Exchange Clubs Youth of the Year/Male, and Youth of the Year/Female.

Please use this form to score Sections III and IV of this nomination and e-mail them to Brian Leonard, VP Youth & Awards, flxcawards@gmail.com, by April 23, 2026.

Please call 954-909-3751. With questions.

**Florida District Exchange Clubs
2026 Youth of the Year Judging Form**

Contestant Number: _____

Judge: _____
(Please Print)

Section III: Special Achievements and Awards Essay

Please review and score the contestant's selection of what he/she considers their greatest achievement.
Maximum points for this section – 160.

Total: _____

Section IV: Essay – “In a world that is constantly changing and ever-evolving, our youth play critical roles in shaping the future of their communities. From advocating to leading, young people are taking charge and making significant impact. How have you personally contributed to society and how do you envision your future in community service?”

Score the contestant's essay based on the following criteria:

Possible Points	Criterion	Score
40	Organization (clear division of ideas and beliefs)	
40	Clear development	
20	Grammatical correctness and proper composition	
40	Effectiveness of the presented message	
40	Logic and soundness of the presented message	
40	Ability to clearly communicate to the reader	
40	Overall impact on the reader	
20	Adherence to subject and initial argument	
20	Conclusion	

Total Score	
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Florida District Exchange Clubs
2026 Youth of the Year Interview Form
(To be completed May 1st, at the District Convention)

Contestant Number: _____

Judge: _____
(Please Print)

Section V: Interview Maximum Score 50

Instructions: Please score each contestant on the categories noted below. Each category includes aspects to consider in evaluating each contestant. These are guidelines; you are not limited to these aspects.

Use a 1-to-10 scale to evaluate each contestant in each category. You may use all numbers between 1 and 10 in judging your contestant. Here's a sample of the 1-10 range:

1 = does not meet minimum standards 5 = meets standards 10 = Exceeds standards

Interview Categories	Score
1. Overall Conduct: Did the contestant. . . ▪ Greet you promptly and professionally? ▪ Introduce himself/herself properly? ▪ Remain standing until asked to be seated? ▪ Help to make you feel at ease? ▪ Make an overall good impression?	
2. Response to Interview Questions: Did the contestant. . . Answer questions completely? Answer questions clearly and concisely? Give any examples to support his/her answer? Seem in control of his/her responses?	
3. Speech: Did the contestant. . . ▪ Use correct English? ▪ Demonstrate a good use of the language?	
4. Personality: Did the contestant. . . ▪ Express appropriate enthusiasm? ▪ Express self-confidence, self-esteem? ▪ Have a pleasant demeanor? ▪ Show mental alertness? ▪ Appear socially at ease?	
5. Personal Appearance: Did the contestant. . . ▪ Present in appropriate, business-like dress? ▪ Appear neat and clean?	
Total Score	

Judge's Signature _____

2026 Youth of the Year Judging Tool

This nomination for Youth of the Year contains a lot of important information and insight into the contestant. Since you will be interviewing him/her on April 25, 2026 by zoom it may be helpful to jot down your thoughts and observations about this contestant's nomination, as well as some questions you will want to remember to ask during the interview.

You may find it helpful use this form for your notes. This form will not be included in the scoring or selection of this year's winners; it's just a note page for you to use.

Thoughts/observations on this contestant from his/her application form.

Questions to ask during the interview.