

**MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Senior High School Application

All applications must be by **typed** and RECEIVED BY OUR OFFICE
no later than **February 27, 2009.**

Be sure that all SIGNATURES are signed and are completed on this form.

(Name of School - typed)

(Mailing Address - typed)

(City, State, Zip - typed)

_____ Number of Students in school _____ Number of Students in Council

* If your school includes 7-12 and has two councils, please request
a middle level application and apply separately for both councils.

We verify to the best of our knowledge that the items contained in this application accurately describe the activity and organization of our student council in the current school year.
For the application to be considered, the appropriate signatures must appear below.

Name of Student Council President (Typed)

Signature (Signed)

Date

Name of Student Council Adviser (Typed)

Signature (Signed)

Date

Name of Principal (Typed)

Signature (Signed)

Date

**Place this information sheet (a replica of this sheet is acceptable) as the
first sheet of your documentation for the Award of Excellence.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Since we have many applications to evaluate in a short period of time, it would facilitate the process if you would do the following:

1. ***Do NOT permanently bind, enclose in plastic sheet covers, or staple your packet. Submit it in a 3-ring binder (no larger than 1") with tabs separating the different sections. During the evaluation process each packet goes through several committees and it is easier if we can pull the sections as needed. Ten points will be deducted for NOT following these instructions.***
2. ***Number all pages consecutively. For the reason given above it is easier to reassemble the materials. Be sure to also label each section with appropriate headings where indicated. Five points will be deducted for not following these instructions.***
3. ***Put each section on a separate page or pages and with headings designated for each section if needed (i.e. Service Project on two pages with headings listed to designate individual sections.) Five points will be deducted for not following these instructions.***
4. ***Be sure that the secretary's minutes and treasurer's report are signed.***
5. ***When writing the problem solving/service reports, please follow the outline of required information. Remember the readers do not know anything about your activity. They will judge by what information you give and how it meets the requirements. That you meant to include something or thought the readers would know it is not going to earn points. They read many applications in one day, write clearly.***
6. ***Absolutely no applications will be accepted without the application fee (see Section 7). If your application is received without the required fee, your award will be graded, however, it will NOT be considered for an Award.***

A suggestion:

Assign sections of the packet in the fall and have students work on a timeline to prepare the final product. Review the progress of the various committees on a regular basis. Ask for additional information on financial requirements, goal setting, etc., if necessary. This is meant to be a learning process and we learn by asking. Call the MASC office for information or examples in the fall so that your Council can be prepared properly to earn the Award.

Awards will be presented to the eligible schools at the MASC/MAHS State Conference in April.

Special Note: *Please have your material proof-read prior to submitting it. Although we want the applications produced by the students, we recognize that proof-reading may require adult supervision. Have the students correct their errors and submit their application. **This award is a method of student self-evaluation. Any material which is deemed to have been prepared by a sponsor/adult will be subject to point reduction.***

IMPORTANT

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MASC NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 27, 2009.

Since a committee of students and adults will convene to review the applications, your application must arrive at the MASC office within an acceptable time to be submitted for the evaluation process. If your application is late and misses the evaluation committee, it will be returned unopened and will not be considered for the Award of Excellence.

Send the application, documentation and application fee to:

**MASC Award of Excellence
1001 Centennial Way, Suite 100
Lansing, MI 48917**

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Award of Excellence provides an opportunity for a student council to do a self-evaluation. Student leaders can benefit from the process of objectively analyzing what their organization is doing. Accordingly, the Award of Excellence Application should reflect student efforts to apply an evaluative process. The application process is limited to MASC member schools.

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR EVALUATION PACKET THE ITEMS ON THIS CHECKLIST IN THE ORDER GIVEN. TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE - 210

SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVE 95% OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS (199 POINTS) WILL RECEIVE THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR.

* Proper cover sheet information (and in the right location), a typed application, and a neat presentation count for 5 points. Please place the cover sheet at the very front of your binder.

1. **GOAL SETTING: (Total - 40 points)**

Choose ONE goal set by your council for this current school year and detail the activities/objectives planned to achieve the goal (minimum of three), the time in which each activity took place, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of each of the activities in reaching the goal. **(YOU MUST USE THE MASC GOAL SETTING LAYOUT AND S.M.A.R.T. FORMAT.)** Be sure that you are specific. **Goal statements must use infinitives**, i.e. to develop, to assess, to expand, to implement. Do not confuse goals with objectives - which are the actions you will take to reach the goal. If the evaluation of an objective or goal will occur after the application deadline, summarize the current state of the relevant item. All goals must be for the current school year and at least HALF of the objectives/steps must be completed and evaluated by the time you submit the award. See the scoring rubric for more information and point breakdown.

2. **ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION: (Total - 40 points)** -Please submit a separate page for each of the following sections. For example, "A" material will be on one page, "B" information on a separate page, etc... Five (5) points will be deducted for not separating the sections on different pages.

A. List the names of your Student Council Officers, their position titles for this school year, and include a picture if possible. (ex: President, Treasurer, Vice President, Secretary, etc...)

Please include a copy of each of the job descriptions which your council uses for each of the Council officers you list. Please make a separate presentation for each job description. Do not expect readers to search through your Constitution for the information.

B. Please give the number of Council members by grade, and total membership. Include a photo if desired.

____ - 9th; ____ - 10th; ____ - 11th; ____ - 12th; Total members = _____

C. Please list the names of your Standing Committees **OR** 5 committees that had special projects this year. Please make a separate presentation. Do not expect readers to search through your Constitution for the information.

D. How frequently does your Student Council meet? i.e. weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, other. Include a brief paragraph describing how your meetings are run or one interesting thing you've done this year at your meetings. Feel free to include pictures from meetings as well.

(Section continued on next page)

- E. Describe how your council members are selected or elected.. Include information about selecting/ electing officers and class representatives and any other positions you have for your student council. Include when your elections take place: fall, spring, other. Please make a separate presentation. Describe the method of selecting Representatives: Home Room elections, Student Body elections, Appointed (how), other (describe). Include a copy of your election procedure or by-laws. That is, the rules which govern your election process Include a copy of the application/nomination form students use (if any) and any other supporting documentation for elections/selections (these documents will NOT be returned - they will be archived at the MASC office.)
- F. Describe your Council's methods of communicating with the Student Body, Administration, and Community. Give Specific Examples If you have a newsletter or sample flyer you would like to share, please include that in the binder at this point.
- G. List the leadership training activities that your students have attended (name of activity and date) and the names of the students who attended. i.e. such as leadership class, MASC Summer Leadership Camp, Regional conferences, local, league, or county workshops, national conferences, etc.)
- H. Submit for evaluation **from the same meeting** an example of the following: (please put each on a separate page)
 A)*AGENDA
 B)*MINUTES
 C)**a complete TREASURER's REPORT.
 D)Submit a copy of your ANNUAL BUDGET OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT for a specific activity.
 E) A copy of your CONSTITUTION.
**If the Agenda is for Oct. 5, 2001, the Minutes and Treasurer's Report must be for the Oct. 5, 2001 meeting.
 **The Treasurer's report must be on a separate page, although balances should be included in the minutes. It must include beginning and ending balances, itemized listing of debits and credits for the report period.
 (Examples of Treasurer's Reports, Financial Statements & Annual Budgets are available from MASC.)*
- I. Please submit a yearly calendar of activities that your council is responsible for organizing or assists in hosting. Please supply the dates and the names of the activity.

3. **SERVICE PROJECT: (Total - 40 points).** Please format the description of your project by using the headings listed (points will be deducted if headings are not used) and be sure to include the following information. Submit **no more** than a two-typed page description of one service project conducted by your student council this school year that helped the community.* The project must take place no earlier than April of the previous school year and must be completed at the time of Award submission.

- A) SELECTION: Please explain why the project was selected, what research was done on the project, who was part of the committee
- B) ORGANIZATION: Include a summary of how the project was planned or organized and how the project was implemented or carried out.
- C) RESULTS: Report the results of the project
- D) EVALUATION: Provide an evaluation of how successful the project was. Describe the strengths & weaknesses/improvements you would make if you could do the project again.
- E) VISUAL EVIDENCE: Provide one page of pictures or a scrapbook-style page displaying your efforts/project.

A project that has not been concluded will not be considered.

** Community is defined as a project that helps those outside of the school and is done for the good of others. It does not include fundraising unless for a charity group. The project must be conducted by the student council and must be open to include the participation of the student body. Mention specific examples to demonstrate the success of the project.*

4. **PROBLEM SOLVING: (Total - 40 points)** Please format the description of your problem by using the headings listed (points will be deducted if headings are not used) and be sure to include the following information. Submit no more than a two-page typed report describing ONE problem faced by your Student Council this school year and the methods used to solve it.
- A) DESCRIPTION: Include a description of the problem.
 - B) SOLUTIONS: Provide a list of **possible** solutions (3 or more) that you considered and give a description of each.
 - C) IMPLEMENTATION: Tell which solution you chose to use, why you chose that solution over the other 2 listed above, and describe how that solution was implemented to correct the problem.
 - D) EVALUATION: Evaluate the outcome of the problem solving strategy used and how effective the solution was. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of your solution and ways you could improve further.
5. **PROJECT PLANNING: (Total - 40 points)**
- Please submit the process used to plan an event (you are NOT permitted to use a Homecoming Event, such as a dance, pep rally, parade, etc... or your service project from the previous section) that was done no earlier than April of the previous school year and has been completed by the time this is submitted. To format this section of the award, please retype the letter and the question and then follow with your response. This will help the committee as they read the applications. If the letter and question are not retyped as the heading to your response, points will be deducted.
- A). WHAT are you planning to do? Describe your project.
 - B). WHEN will your project take place? Give specific dates and times. Is anyone's permission needed? If so, who? And, by when?
 - C). WHERE will the activity take place?
 - D). WHO will benefit from the project? In other words, who is your target audience? Also, what do you expect the benefits to be?
 - E). What FUNDS and SUPPLIES are needed for this project?
 - F). What kinds of PUBLICITY is needed for the event? When is it needed by?
 - G). List the COMMITTEES and the members of the committees needed for the event. Identify the tasks of each member. Include the deadlines and checklists used for the event.
 - H). Who deserves a THANK YOU? Who will write them? When will they be sent?
 - I). What would you KEEP the same about this project? What worked well?
 - J). What would you DELETE from this project? WHY? What didn't work and must go?
 - K). What would you IMPROVE about this project? What would you do different?
6. **RECOMMENDATION: (Total - 5 points)**
- Submit a letter of recommendation from one adult, other than your principal or adviser, who is qualified to evaluate your council; i.e. they worked on a project with you, etc. Just a thank you letter does not count. Someone who has knowledge of the effectiveness of your student council. The writer should indicate how they are involved with the council. The letter must be typed, signed and include the title/position of the author. For your application to be considered, the letter of recommendation must be included. (5 points)
7. **APPLICATION FEE:**
- DO NOT FORGET TO INCLUDE THIS CHECK WITH YOUR BINDER! APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WITHOUT THE APPLICATION FEE WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE!**
- Check or money order for \$50.00 (**Please note Application Fee increase!)**
- Checks must be made payable to M.A.S.C. and must be enclosed with the application.
- We prefer to have the check put in an envelope and TAPED to the inside front cover of the binder.

Award of Excellence Scoring Sheet

High School Rubric

NAME OF SCHOOL
SCHOOL CITY
ADVISER'S NAME

Initials		Points Worth	Points Given	Comments
	Application Process	5		
	Cover sheet - school information & signatures	2		
	Application is typed	1		
	Neatly presented in a binder	2		
	Goal Setting	40		
	Goal is SPECIFIC	4		
	Goal is MEASURABLE	4		
	Goal is ATTAINABLE/REALISTIC	4		
	Goal is RESPONSIBLE	4		
	Goal is TIMELY	4		
	There are a minimum of 3 supporting activities/objectives	3		
	The activities/objectives match/support the goal	3		
	The activities/objectives are clearly labeled & explained	3		
	There is an overall plan to achieve the goal	2		
	Times are clearly stated (months, semesters, weeks)	3		
	Strengths are clearly stated within the evaluation	3		
	Weaknesses are clearly stated within the evaluation	3		
	MASC Goal Setting Layout NOT USED	-40		
	Organizational Information	40		
	A. Names, positions and job descriptions for officers are written out	8		
	B. Number of members per grade is listed; total # of members is provided	2		
	C. Standing committees (or 5 total committees) are given	3		
	D. Council mtg. times listed; description of how meetings are run is provided	2		
	E. Description of how members & officers are elected/selected is provided	4		
	F. Council's communication methods are outlined; specific examples given	4		
	G. List of leadership training activities is included & attendees listed	3		
	H. Agenda	2		
	H. Minutes (signed by secretary)	2		
	H. Treasurer's Report (signed by treasurer)	2		
	H. Annual Budget/Financial Statement	2		
	H. Constitution	2		
	I. Yearly Calendar of Activities, with dates & names of activities listed	4		
	Sections are NOT on separate pages as instructed	-5		
	Service Project	40		
	MUST TAKE PLACE AFTER APRIL OF LAST YEAR AND BE COMPLETED BY SUBMISSION			
	A. Selection: WHY this project, WHAT research was done; WHO (committee)	4		
	B. Organization: Summary of how project was planned and carried out	6		
	C. Results are reported in a measurable way	6		
	D. Evaluation: summary of evaluation provided	6		
	D. Evaluation: Strengths clearly listed	5		
	D. Evaluation: Weakness and improvements needed are clearly described	5		
	E. Visual Evidence included (ex: picture page, scrapbook page)	4		
	Project helped the community (see note in application)	2		
	Included participation of student body (see note in application)	2		
	Appropriate headings for this section not used	-5		
	Section is more than 2 pages long	-5		
	Project NOT completed in required time frame	-40		

Award of Excellence Scoring Sheet

High School Rubric

	Points Worth	Points Given	Comments
Problem Solving	40		
A. Description of problem is included	8		
B. Solutions: three possible solutions are listed (minimum) & described	8		
C. Implementation: which solution is chosen & why it was chosen is explained	6		
C. Implementation: how solution chosen was actually implemented	5		
D. Evaluation: outcome & effectiveness of strategy is evaluated	4		
D. Evaluation: strengths are described	3		
D. Evaluation: weaknesses are described	3		
D. Evaluation: ways to improve situation further	3		
<i>Headings are not used as outlined in directions</i>	-5		
<i>Description is more than 2 pages typed</i>	-5		
Project Planning	40		
A. WHAT are you planning to do? (Project Description)	4		
B. WHEN will the project take place; specific dates/times given; permission	4		
C. WHERE will the activity take place?	2		
D. WHO benefits: target audience and expected benefits listed	4		
E. FUNDS and SUPPLIES listed	4		
F. PUBLICITY needed is described and when it is needed by is listed	4		
G. COMMITTEES listed (members' names), tasks, deadlines & checklists	4		
H. THANK YOU's - who gets, who writes, when they send them	4		
I. What to KEEP the same is described (strengths)	2		
J. What needs to be DELETED is described (and why)	4		
K. What needs to be IMPROVED is listed (and why)	4		
<i>Headings are not used as outlined in directions</i>	-5		
<i>An ineligible event is used (see application on what is unacceptable)</i>	-40		
Recommendation	5		
Letter is typed, signed, author's title given	5		
<i>Permanently bound; use of plastic sheets; use of staples</i>	-10		
<i>Pages not consecutively numbered or sections not labeled</i>	-5		
<i>Main sections not on separate pages as instructed</i>	-5		
Total Points:	210		Score Percent:

Award Given: YES NO

*To receive award, school must receive 199 points (95%)

Additional Comments from Awards Committee

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

GOAL SETTING SAMPLE

Goal (in SMART format): To complete five new community service projects during the 99-00 school year

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ACTIVITIES/OBJECTIVES</u> processes/activities used to achieve the goal <i>*brief, clear explanations</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TIME</u> when activity will occur <i>*be as specific as possible</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>EVALUATION</u> how activity meets the goal <i>*give strengths and weaknesses</i></p>
<p><u>Book Drive</u> - Books were collected from local elementary schools and organized in the Student Activities office at Anytown HS. - The books were redistributed to local shelters: Safe House (That Town, MI), Town Soup Kitchen (Other Twp, MI), and Secure Shelter (City, MI).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">September 1999 through November 1999</p>	<p>Strength(s): We collected over 3,000 books, exceeding our goal of 300!</p> <p>Weakness(es): Local agencies were unable to utilize all of the books so we had to transport them to locations further out. Transportation wasn't easy either - a lot of planning was required for that amount of books.</p>
<p><u>Sock Tree</u> - Students and staff brought in winter accessories (hats, mittens, gloves, socks, etc...). The items were hung on Christmas trees (each class and the staff had their own tree) located in the front common area of Anytown H.S. - All of the donated items were presented to the Town Clothing Depot by the class that had the most decorated tree.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 1999</p>	<p>Strength(s): We collectively gathered over 200 items. The Christmas giving spirit made many people willing to contribute items to Charity and the project was well received.</p> <p>Weakness(es): With such a large student/staff population, we expected more than only 200 items. Our publicity and encouragement should have been stronger.</p>
<p><u>Town Soup Kitchen</u> - Each month student volunteers and an adviser traveled to Town Soup Kitchen to prepare and serve dinner to the hungry.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">October 1999 through February 1999, on the Second and Fourth Sunday of each month</p>	<p>Strength(s): The response we received from the diners and the workers gave our Congress pride and satisfaction in our work. We were very appreciated!</p> <p>Weakness(es): A Sunday event was hard to get volunteers for. We should try to do a lunch time serving during the week.</p>
<p><u>Salvation Army Bell Ringers</u> - The Student Congress rang bells in six shifts of two hours each collecting money for the Salvation Army. The site worked at was the local Target.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 10, 1999</p>	<p>Strength(s): We raised \$665 in just one day!</p> <p>Weakness(es): We had some people back out due to the cold and snowy weather.</p>
<p><u>Cats & Dogs Bake Sale</u> - A bake sale was held at all lunches. - The Student Congress brought in homemade baked goods to sell. Some baked goods were made with animal themes (dog/cat cutout cookies, frosted designs on cupcakes, etc). - All money raised was taken to the MI Human Society.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February 1999 through March 1999, Friday of each week</p>	<p>Strength(s): We raised \$175 for the Humane Society and raised awareness of abused animals. Since the MASC State Charity is the MI Humane Society, we donated the money directly to MASC.</p> <p>Weakness(es): The amount of food donations dropped off considerably as we approached spring break time. We should have done the event only through February.</p>

S.M.A.R.T. GOALS

Specific

What do I hope to accomplish by setting this goal?

Measurable

*Can I see, count, measure, weigh and/or quantify my results?
Can I easily determine a point/number of success?*

Attainable

Thinking optimistically, can this be achieved with my present abilities and resources?

Responsible

*What is the purpose of this goal? Is it worthy of me?
Is it relevant to my overall purpose and is it realistic?*

Timely

*Is this important right now?
Do I have reasonable timelines, target dates, & deadlines set?*

Goal Sample

Original Goal: To increase school spirit by providing incentives for students to get involved.

SMART Goal: To increase student participation in school-sponsored events by 30% during the 99-00 school year. (In the activities/objectives, you can describe HOW to do this, such as providing incentives.)