*Wisconsin Association of School Councils & Association of Wisconsin School Administrators*

Spirit of Excellence Award

The Spirit of Excellence program honors Wisconsin schools that achieve excellence in leadership development, school spirit, sportsmanship and service to school and community.

Each year, a selection committee consisting of members from WASC, AWSA, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators, Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association, Wisconsin Association for Middle Level Educators, Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association, Rotary and WEA Trust selects one junior or middle school as the state winner and one as the runner up. The winner receives a trophy, awarded at a school assembly. Each Recipient is also recognized at a Milwaukee Bucks game in the spring.

To be eligible, schools must be a member of WIAA and WASC and submit a portfolio that demonstrates achievement in each of three key dimensions in a calendar year beginning February 1.



Spirit of Excellence Instructions

To be eligible for the Spirit of Excellence Award, follow these instructions:

* Download the following materials from [www.wasc.org/spirit](http://www.wasc.org/spirit)
  + Application Form
  + Instructions, which includes descriptions and rubrics
  + Template – Leadership
  + Template – Sportsmanship
  + Template – Service
* Complete the application form. This will serve as the title page for your portfolio.
* Document your school’s activities and achievements using the templates for Leadership, Sportsmanship and Service dimensions.
  + You may make as many copies as needed, but each template should detail one activity or achievement.
  + The Rubrics page will give you guidelines on how each dimension will be scored.
  + All activities must have taken place between February 1 and January 31.
  + Be careful not to exceed the maximum number of activities in the rubrics. Focus on your most prestigious, memorable activities.
* Some rubrics require artifacts. These may be submitted on paper or scanned and included with the portfolio. Make sure each letter is clear regarding the dimension it addresses.

Submitting your materials:

* **All materials must be received by February 1.**
* The portfolio may be submitted in any of the following ways:
  + Shared in a Google Drive folder with the State Office ([stateoffice@wasc.org](mailto:stateoffice@wasc.org))
  + Emailed to Michelle McGrath at [michelle@wasc.org](mailto:michelle@wasc.org)
  + Mailed to the state office on a flash drive
  + Printed and mailed to the state office.
* An email confirmation of receipt will be sent to the address listed on the application. If no confirmation is received within three days of submission, please contact the state office.

# Service to School and Community Dimension

1. ***Service to School*** – Showcase your top organized school group service projects benefiting the school and/or community. Samples could include: Campus Clean- up, Recycling Project, March of Dimes Walk, Retirement Home Dance, etc.
2. ***Description*** – Provide a description in 150 words or less of each project including the timeline for the project and a reflection of the project. Please know that the reflection piece is a crucial part in effective leadership practice and will be weighted heavily in final selection.
3. ***Artifacts*** – Provide three artifacts that can validate your engagement in school and community service. They need to confirm specific community service events facilitated by the school and the impact these events had on your school and community. These include letters of reference, newspaper articles, blog posts, pictures, thank-you’s, etc.

# Service Rubrics

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| ***Service to School & Community*** | Documentation of 3 projects | Documentation of 2 projects | Documentation of 1 project |  |  |
| ***Description of Activity*** | Provides a description of each project including timeline and reflection | Provides a description of more than half of projects listed including all of criteria listed | Provides a description of less than half of projects listed including all of criteria listed | Provides only a general overview of all projects listed | Provides little to no description of projects listed |
| ***Reflection*** | Provides a detailed, well thought out reflection for each activity | Provides a detailed, well thought out reflection for some of the activities | Provides a brief reflection for each activity | Provides a brief reflection for some of the activities | Provides no reflections |
| ***Artifacts*** | Includes 3 artifacts | Includes at least 2 artifacts | Includes 1 artifact |  | Includes no artifacts |

**Spirit and Sportsmanship Dimension**

1. ***Spirit and Sportsmanship Programs*** – Showcase your top organized school programs that encourage good sportsmanship or school spirit either on or off the field. Examples may include: (1) Use of Activity Code Handbook, (2) Activity code sign off form, (3) School cheers (4) Sportsmanship announcements before games,

(5) Traveling school sportsmanship trophy, (6) Thank you notes to visiting teams

(7) Spirit days, (8) Pep assemblies, (9) Cheerleading Squads/Pep Teams, (10) Recognition/celebration banquets

1. ***Description of Programs*** - Provide a description in 150 words or less of each program including the timeline for the program and a reflection of the program. . Please know that the reflection piece is a crucial part in effective leadership practice and will be weighted heavily.
2. ***Artifacts*** – Provide three artifacts validating your encouragement and active modeling of good sportsmanship and spirit. These could include letters of recommendation, newspaper articles showcasing it, awards, etc.

# Sportsmanship Rubrics

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| ***School Spirit & Sportsmanship***  ***Programs*** | Documentation of 3 programs | Documentation of 2 programs | Documentation of 1 program |  |  |
| ***Description of Activity*** | Provides a detailed description of each program timeline and reflection | Provides a detailed description of more than half of programs listed including  all of criteria listed | Provides a detailed description of less than half of programs listed including all of criteria listed | Provides only a general overview of all programs listed | Provides little to no description of programs listed |
| ***Reflection*** | Provides a detailed, well thought out reflection for each activity | Provides a detailed, well thought out reflection for some of the activities | Provides a brief reflection for each activity | Provides a brief reflection for some of the activities | Provides no reflections |
| ***Artifacts*** | Includes 3 artifacts | Includes at least 2 artifacts | Includes at least 1 artifact |  | Includes no artifacts |

**Leadership Dimension**

1. ***Achievement and/or Evidence of Excellence Demonstrated in Academics or Academic Rigor*** – Showcase your best in this criterion must be submitted by category. For example: (1) Student of the Month: 12 students (2) Honor Roll: 671 students, etc. (Others that fall under academic achievement: Academic Club Champions/Honors such as Math Team, Destination Imagination, Debate, Mock Trial, Forensics, National Junior Honor Society, etc.)
2. ***Achievement/ Excellence Demonstrated in Co-Curriculars & Athletics*** – Showcase your best in this criterion must be submitted by category. For example:
   1. Participation in activities & athletics (2) Presidential Awards of Fitness, etc. (3) WASC Competition involvement (4) Honors in these venues.
3. ***Achievements/Excellence Demonstrated in Fine Arts*** – Showcase your best in this criterion must be submitted by category. For example – (1) Solo Ensemble participation (2) Art Club participation (3) Choral Music participation, etc.
4. ***Dedication to Promoting Respect/Reflection of School’s Core Values*** – Showcase your best programs targeted to these initiatives and provide a description in 150 words or less of each program including the timeline for the program and any data supporting the program’s effectiveness. For example – Peer Mentoring Program, Character Counts, After-school programs, Bulletin board messages, Police liaison initiatives, etc.
5. ***Dedication to Leadership Development In AND Outside of School*** – Documentation and a brief description of this criterion must be submitted by category. For example – (1) WASC Officer/Advisor Training – 15 students (2) Optimists Leadership Training – 8 students (3) Ready Camps (3) Principals Cabinets (4) Tribes training for teachers (5) Homeroom/advisory period structures
6. ***Portfolio*** – Each section of the Spirit of Excellence Portfolio must have a single title page, which includes the name of the school and a list of students that participated in the preparation/completion of the portfolio. It must be submitted in the writable pdf format or computer processed. It must follow the order of the attached rubric. If done independently of the pdf format, please make sure to include divider pages between sections.

Leadership Rubrics

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| ***Achievement*** | Documentation/ | Documentation/ | Documentation/ |  |  |
| ***demonstrated*** | Description of 3 | Description of 2 | Description of 1 |
| ***in an*** |  |  |  |
| ***Academic*** |  |  |  |
| ***Field/ Rigor*** |  |  |  |
| ***Participation/*** | Documentation/ | Documentation/ | Documentation/ |  |  |
| ***Excellence*** | Description of 3 | Description of 2 | Description of 1 |
| ***demonstrated*** |  |  |  |
| ***in Co-*** |  |  |  |
| ***Curriculars*** |  |  |  |
| ***Participation/*** | Documentation/ | Documentation/ | Documentation/ |  |  |
| ***Excellence*** | Description of 3 | Description of 2 | Description of 1 |
| ***demonstrated*** |  |  |  |
| ***in Fine Arts*** |  |  |  |
| ***Dedication to*** | Provides 3 | Provides 2 | Provides 1 |  |  |
| ***Leadership*** | leadership | leadership | leadership |
| ***Development*** | venues for | venues for | venue for |
| ***In and Outside*** | students and a | students and a | students and a |
| ***of School*** | detailed | brief description | brief description |
|  | description of | of each event | of the event |
|  | each event |  |  |
| ***Dedication to*** | Provides 3 | Provides 2 | Provides 1 |  |  |
| ***Promoting*** | programs | programs | program |
| ***Respect/Core*** | targeted at | targeted at | targeted at |
| ***Values*** | promoting | promoting | promoting |
|  | respect/core | respect/core | respect/core |
|  | values and a | values and a | values and a |
|  | detailed | brief description | detailed |
|  | description of | of each program | description of |
|  | each program |  | each program |
| ***Portfolio*** | Follows correct | Follows correct | Somewhat | Somewhat | Does note |
|  | structure, | structure but | follows correct | follows correct | follow correct |
|  | creative, and | lacks | structure, | structure but | structure |
|  | organized | individuality | creative and | lack individuality |  |
|  |  |  | organized |  |  |