



ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENTS Student Council of Excellence Award

The Alaska Association of Students Governments encourages student councils in Alaska to be strong, active, and responsive.

THE ALASKA

STUDENT COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

honors schools with councils which meet high standards.

All councils demonstrating that they meet the criteria will be recognized at the Spring Conference and receive a trophy plaque for their school!

All Student Councils of Excellence will be inscribed on the AASG STUDENT COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE PLAQUE, a fantastic honor for student councils in Alaska!

Portfolios must be received on the first day of the Spring Conference by the end of Registration.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The application must be signed by the principal, student council advisor, and student council president.
2. All student councils that apply must have delegate(s) at the Spring Conference.
3. The application covers activities completed in the 4 semesters before the Conference.
4. Please email notification to Carol Waters, Executive Director, at ma2tna@acsalaska.net that you intend to apply for the Student Council of Excellence Award.
5. The application must be complete and organized to be considered.
6. The portfolio must show documentation for all activities required AND the completed application and certification form.
7. All documentation must be labeled with the correct category (eg. A1, B3) .
8. Use the rubric to check the completeness of your application.
9. Each activity or project may be submitted for only one category, except as indicated on the application as effective in meeting more than one area (eg. RSVP implementation).
10. The AASG Committee will announce the Student Councils of Excellence on the last day of the Spring Conference.
11. Student Councils may apply yearly. However, if selected as a Student Council of Excellence, the student council must submit all previous years' portfolios to demonstrate that it has used different activities each year to justify the award in each year, and complete an essay.
12. If a student council is awarded the Excellence Award three years successively, the council will qualify for the Student Council of Excellence Pennant.

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

- A. **To be awarded the Student Council of Excellence award, a high school student council must answer ALL three ESSAY questions (200 word minimum for each essay):**

1. Describe what makes your council extraordinary. Give at least three specific examples to make your point.
2. Describe in detail how your council works to respond to a need in your community and discuss the results of these efforts.
3. Describe at least 2 strategies your council used to become more effective in responding to the needs in your school and demonstrate the outcomes of these strategies.

B. To earn the Student Council of Excellence award, a high school student council must show documentation of ALL of the following:

1. Membership in AASG for at least the last three years (Executive Director will verify);
2. By-laws or constitution that govern your student council;
3. Must have a designated advisor who participates with student council at meetings, and acts as a “coach” for student leadership. Show evidence of the advisor’s responsibilities and actions on behalf of student council;
4. Student council meetings held regularly. Copies of minutes for one meeting, with calendar of dates of meetings, and announcement of meetings;
5. Democratic election/selection process for officers;
6. Sample ballot for elections;
7. Internal communication with administration, student body, school board, teachers, and community on issues;
8. Financial Planning: Show this with a budget, with income and expenses, for the current year and for a specific activity by your council;
9. Evaluation: Provide copy of evaluation tool, RSVP summit, or survey your council has used, including results and actions taken based upon evaluation.

C. To earn the Student Council of Excellence award, a high school student council must show DOCUMENTATION of ALL of the following no more than 4 semesters before the Spring Conference:

1. Attendance by student council members at two state conferences;
2. At least one person from school running for state or national student council office;
3. Workshop presentation at a district, region, or state meeting/conference;
4. Completion of Raising Student Voice and Participation (RSVP) training at a conference/school.

D. To earn the Student Council of Excellence award, a high school student council must show documentation of at least 5 of the following:

1. RSVP Summits completed and the summit results, Civic Action Plan developed and completed in response to school needs. Include summit results, action plans, and ;
2. Civic Engagement Activity (voter registration, mock election, candidate forum, working with local government or Native Association to complete a project, speaking on issues at board meeting). In order to count, need for the project must be justified and outcomes described;
3. School Service Project, with need for project justified (eg.statistics, survey, letter of support) and outcomes (show the benefits to your school with letters of support, etc.);
4. Community Service Project with needs justified and outcomes demonstrated;
5. Teacher/staff Appreciation Activity, with outcomes (what were your goals and did you reach them);
6. Resolution presented at AASG Conference in response to identified school or community need, and resulting actions taken by your council to meet the need.



Application
Alaska Association of Student Governments
Student Council of Excellence

School Name _____ School Phone _____
Address _____ City, Zip _____

Student Council President's name _____ E-mail _____

Advisor's Name _____ #yrs as advisor _____ E-mail _____

Principal's name _____ E-mail _____

Approximate year Council began _____
9-12th grade students in school _____ number of Council members _____ number of officers _____

Certification Statement

We certify that activities in this application were completed as stated. We agree that student council delegates will attend the Spring Conference.

Council President's signature _____ date _____

Principal signature _____ date _____

Advisor signature _____ date _____

Email notification required to Carol Waters, Executive Director, at ma2tna@acsalaska.net that the packet is being completed. The completed packet including portfolio and all documentation must be delivered at the Spring Conference no later than the end of Registration on the first day of the conference.

RUBRIC FOR STUDENT COUNCILS OF EXCELLENCE

You can use this rubric as you complete the portfolio.

The Student Councils of Excellence Committee will determine your status by using this rubric.

CATEGORY	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS AWARDED
A-1 Describe what makes your council extraordinary	20	
A-2 Describe how you work beyond the school....?	20	
A-3 Describe strategies your school has used to become more effective...?	20	
B-1 Membership in AASG for 3 years	5	
B-2 By-laws or constitution documented	5	
B-3 Designated advisor service documented	5	
B-4 meetings regularly; copies of minutes for 1 mtg. ; calendar, announcement	5	
B-5 Democratic election documented, with sample ballot	5	
B-6 Sample Ballot	5	
B-7 Documentation of internal communication (adm., student body, sch board)	5	
B-8 Documentation of budget for year and for a specific project	5	
B-9 Evaluation documented, including actions in response to evaluation	5	
C: Documentation of 4 participatory activities		
Demonstration of participation #1	5	
Demonstration of participation #2	5	
Demonstration of participation #3	5	
Demonstration of participation #4	5	
D: Documentation of 5 activities		
Documentation of activity #1	15	
Documentation of activity #2	15	
Documentation of activity #3	15	
Documentation of activity #4	15	
Documentation of activity #5	15	
Application complete and certified with signatures	20	
TOTALS (must have all categories fulfilled, AND at least 200 pts to be SCE)	220	
E: In order to be considered for consecutive years as SCE, you must include your previous years' portfolios to show that you are using different activities.	100 (50 for each year)	
F. Describe how your Council has demonstrated excellence to justify this award for the second/third year.	50	
TOTALS FOR SECOND AND THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEARS MUST BE AT LEAST 340 POINTS	370	