

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD

Official Nomination Form - 2026

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NOMINATION MATERIALS. DO NOT REQUEST ACCESS TO THE
LINK**



National Federation of State High School Associations
PO Box 690 | Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
Phone: 317-972-6900 | Fax: 317.822.5700

INSTRUCTIONS

The NFHS has developed its “National High School Heart of the Arts Award,” which will be conferred to eight section winners as well as one national winner. The recipient must be an individual from a high school that is a member of an NFHS-member athletic or activity association.

The recipient could be any student, adult, or group associated with the school’s performing arts program. This award, which is similar to the Spirit of Sport Award, covers a plethora of performing arts disciplines: Music, Speech, Debate, Theatre, Visual Arts and other performing arts activities that state associations may sponsor.

This award seeks to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive heart of the arts that represent the core mission of education-based activities. The award may be given in recognition of a specific act or for an activity of longer duration.

For example, it could be awarded to an individual (or group) that:

- has demonstrated exemplary “heart,” sportsmanship and/or citizenship in participation as it should occur;
- has exceeded normal expectations in assisting others within the school or community; or
- has overcome adversity or a challenging circumstance.

In the instance of a student, that student must be in good academic standing within his or her respective high school. Among the qualifying criteria that will be used are the student’s grade-point average, the activities in which he or she is involved, and community involvement. Non-student candidates should possess similar positive character traits, such as a high level of integrity and ethics.

The nomination must be for something that occurred between January 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026. Nominated individuals do not necessarily need to still be enrolled in high school at the time of the nomination.

The NFHS seeks to identify worthy award recipients by nominations submitted by the membership. Those nominations may be made by member high school associations, or by high schools or performing arts associations working through the member high school associations. In the instance of a nomination originating from a high school or performing arts association, it must be forwarded to the high school association within its particular state. A listing of all state associations is featured on the NFHS Website at www.nfhs.org.

The member state association would then review all nominations, select the one nomination it deems worthy, sign the nomination form indicating its endorsement and approval and forward it to the NFHS. Each state association may submit just one nominee to the NFHS.

This nomination form is the primary criterion in the nomination process. Support materials are welcome, but not required. We would ask that you limit your support materials to a reasonable number. Please also submit a color photograph of the nominee(s).

The section winners and the national winner will be publicized in an NFHS press release, as well as in “High School Today.”

In addition, the national winner will be recognized in person at the NFHS Summer Meeting. Information regarding the national recipient will be included in a video that will be shown there.

Information regarding the section winners will also be included in a video that will be shown there.

Every nominee, regardless if they are selected or not selected as a section or national award recipient, will receive a certificate signed by the NFHS Executive Director.

Submissions are due to the Arkansas Activities Association no later than January 26, 2026 for consideration. Please return all nomination forms and a color picture of the nominee by email to: christyal@ahsaa.org.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the AAA is **January 26, 2026**)

Name of Nominee: [Tab here] _____
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: [Tab here] _____

Phone: [Tab here] _____

E-mail: [Tab here] _____

Street Address: [Tab here] _____

City, State, Zip Code: [Tab here] _____

Date: [Tab here] _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

- Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts Administrator
 Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: [Tab here] _____
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: [Tab here] _____
(street address)

[Tab here] _____
(city, state, zip)

Phone: [Tab here] _____

E-mail: [Tab here] _____

School (if any): [Tab here] _____

City: [Tab here] _____ State: [Tab here] _____

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

[Tab here]

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

[Tab here]