

**KIWANIS CLUB PRESIDENT INSTRUCTIONS
SOPHOMORE OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP
2016-2017**



Following are club instructions for this year's Sophomore of the Year Scholarship program. This form is also available on the T-O Foundation web site at www.TOFoundation.org. This form and the scholarship application is sent to all T-O Kiwanis Club Presidents and Secretaries. **If your division does not have a Lt. Governor, contact the SOTY Chair or Foundation President for instructions on where to forward your club's winning student application. Lt. Governor information is available on the District website or in the 2016-2017 District Directory.**

Your high school will not receive applications. Your club is responsible for taking a copy of the forms to each of the high schools in your area or seeing that they know how to retrieve the information. Forms are available on Foundation website, www.tofoundation.org. This scholarship is for ANY High School Sophomore, not just Key Club members.

Please encourage participation in this great program. The Texas-Oklahoma Foundation will name the winners at the TX-OK District Convention in August, 2017 in Abilene, TX. This is a great program to encourage sophomores to start thinking about their college education and scholarship money.

Please follow the guidelines below:

1. You or your Youth Service Chairman should fill in the name of your club, division number, and the name of your Lt. Governor at the bottom of the application. Make as many copies as you need.
2. Please take the applications to your schools as soon as you receive them.
3. Applications are due back to the student's school by **January 20, 2017**.
4. You or your Youth Services Chairman should pick up completed applications no later than **February 3, 2017**.

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(cont.)**

5. Your club will pick **one** winner to send to your Lt. Governor and that notification **must be postmarked by February 24, 2017**. If your division does not have a Lt. Governor, contact the SOTY Chair. **The March 24, 2017 postmark date still applies**. PLEASE CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOUR SELECTION MEETS THE GUIDELINES GIVEN. You are encouraged to notify students whose applications were not selected. If the application was rejected for "not in accordance with the instructions" that fact should be included in the reply.
6. Your Lt. Governor will determine one finalist from your Division, and send that application and certification form to the SOTY Chair.
7. **The winners will be announced in August, 2017 at the Kiwanis District Convention in Abilene, TX.** Plaques for the winners will be distributed to the respective Lt. Governors to present to the winners in their divisions. If a Lt. Governor or Division Representative is not present at the convention, the Foundation will forward the plaque and winner's letter to the Kiwanis Club that submitted the winner's application.
8. Plaques will **NOT** be provided by the Foundation for any other applicants. Letters of regret will be sent to those not chosen for a scholarship at the District level. **Lt. Governors** should notify each club in their division which application is submitted to the SOTY Chair for judging at the district level. **Clubs** should notify their applicants about their choice.
9. The 2016-2017 Sophomore Of The Year Chair is:

Mary Kay Phelan
203 Chaparral St.
Borger, TX 79007
806-275-2702 (days)
marykay.phelan@contractor.p66.com

Your Foundation may be contacted through the District Office.
817-640-7711
txokdist@swbell.net

Please take this opportunity to publicize your club's participation by submitting pictures and articles about the presentation in your local newspapers.



Sophomore of the Year History

Walter Hurst was a long time member of the Texas-Oklahoma Foundation Board and financial supporter of the Texas-Oklahoma Foundation.

He proposed and lobbied the Texas-Oklahoma Board for three years to start a scholarship fund for sophomores. Finally in 1979-80* they agreed to start the “Walter Hurst Sophomore of the Year Scholarship.” In recent years, the program has normally been referred to as “Sophomore of the Year or SOTY.”

The Scholarship award is not based on academics, but on leadership qualities. A goal is to seek out, recognize and develop leadership potential commencing with high school sophomores, and to encourage and prepare the next generation of civic and corporate leadership for America's future.

A second goal is to help sophomores gain experience and confidence in following written instructions when applying for scholarships.

A third goal is to educate people in the schools and communities about the Kiwanis organization. The number of scholarships awarded from year to year depends on the amount of money available from the Texas-Oklahoma Foundation. Each club in the District is asked to contribute a minimum of \$5 per member as an annual gift to the Foundation. Special recognition is given to District clubs for a gift of \$10 per member.

The District SOTY awardees are given a personalized plaque and a congratulatory letter that includes instructions on how to redeem the award after enrolling in a college or university.

In addition to the scholarships given at the district level, many clubs award scholarships from their club fund. The Foundation requests that clubs giving scholarships use a name slightly different as to avoid confusion when the time comes for the students to receive their funds.

*According to the late, Past Governor, Marvin Sapaugh, the first convention where the Sophomore of the Year Scholarship recipients were selected and recognized was the 1980 Texas-Oklahoma District Convention in Oklahoma City.