

THE TIMES LEADER

Best & Brightest

- **Students: Keep this informational page for future reference.**
- The Times Leader launched the Best & Brightest program in 1994 to recognize the academic and community service achievements of area high school seniors.
- Schools are invited to nominate up to 10 percent of their graduating class. Schools with fewer than 40 seniors may nominate one student per category. Best & Brightest students must have at least a “B” average.
- Students may compete in one of 14 categories: Art, Athletics, Business Skills, Civics, Computers & Technology, English & Literature, Foreign Languages, Journalism, Mathematics, Music, Performing Arts, Science & Environment, Service to the Community, and Vocational & Technical Skills. Our judges reserve the right to change a student’s category.
- All completed applications are to be typed and mailed to The Times Leader Best & Brightest, 15 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 along with two letters of recommendation on school letterhead and a photo. Recommendations that are not on school letterhead will not be accepted.
- In each category, three to five students will be named as scholarship finalists by Times Leader judges. Finalists will be interviewed at the newspaper office by a panel of community judges. Finalists will be notified by phone in early March.
- Interviews will be conducted during the week of March 22. If a finalist does not attend an interview, he or she will not be eligible to win the scholarship. Judges evaluate the impact of the student’s community service as well as scholastic achievement and extracurricular activities.
- The judges will select a \$1000 scholarship winner in each category. Each scholarship winner also receives an engraved Best & Brightest sculpture.
- The Times Leader will publish a special Best & Brightest tabloid section in May containing biographies and photos of all nominees and feature stories about the 14 scholarship winners and other finalists.
- An awards ceremony will be held this spring. Watch the newspaper for details.

Best & Brightest 2010 Application

Rules:

- Applications must be typed and submitted by mail to The Times Leader Best & Brightest, 15 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
- Students must complete questions using the space provided unless otherwise specified.
- Do not use acronyms. For example, do not write that you are a member of FBLA. Write that you are a member of Future Business Leaders of America.
- Your answers may be included in stories that are published in The Times Leader.
- You must attach a photo with your application. We prefer professional senior portraits, however, other in-focus, color photos will be accepted. Please write your name, high school, and category you're applying for on the back of your photo.
- You must include a nomination letter from your guidance councilor or principal on school letterhead.
- You must include a letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach or administrator on school letterhead.
- You may attach video files or scanned documents of relevance to your application by emailing the files. Video files should be no more than 2 minutes in length (10 MB or 320 x 240 dpi); audio clips 4 minutes in length (5MB as an MP3); and photos no larger than 200 dpi. You may also send a DVD of photos, audio clips or video to: Times Leader Best & Brightest 15 North Main St. Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 or send us a link to your video/audio clips or photos online. All mailed versions must have applicant's name, category and school marked clearly on the materials.
- All completed forms (application, letter of recommendations on letterhead, photo of applicant) must be sent by mail to The Times Leader Best & Brightest, 15 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
- Questions? Email brightest@timesleader.com or call 570.831.7398
- **Deadline:** 4:30 p.m. Friday February 26th.

STUDENT'S NAME:

How is your name pronounced? *(We will be announcing your name during the awards ceremony. Even if it seems simple, please help us get it right.):*

High school:

Category (options listed below):

Art
Business Skills
Computers & Technology
Foreign Languages
Mathematics

Athletics
Civics
English & Literature
Journalism
Music

Performing Arts
Service to the Community
Vocational & Technical Skills

Science & Environment

Phone:

E-mail:

Address: *(Please list your full mailing address, including your street address, town and ZIP code.)*

Mother's name:

Father's name:

For what reason did you choose your category or did a teacher or guidance counselor choose this category for you? Be specific:

Grade point average:

(If your school uses a grading system other than 4-point, please explain)

Class rank:

Awards/accomplishments/honor societies:

(List in order of importance to you. Be sure to include the grade or grades during which you were involved in each. DO NOT USE ACRONYMS. Include level of participation -- member, officer, etc. -- if applicable. Be as specific as possible about what you did to earn each award and achieve each accomplishment.)

<i>Name of award/accomplishment/honor society</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
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Activities (include in-school, extracurricular and out-of-school activities):

(List in order of importance to you and what grade you were active in each activity. DO NOT USE ACRONYMS. Include level of participation -- member, officer, etc. Be as specific as possible about the level of involvement you had in each activity.)

<i>Name of activity</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
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Community/school service:

(List in order of importance to you. Put a checkmark next to the grades you participated in each activity. DO NOT USE ACRONYMS. If you need more space, copy this page. Be as specific as possible about your level of involvement with each project. Any supporting documents that you include with your application must be 8½ by 11 inches. Judges will not consider documents that are other sizes.)

<i>Name of community/school service project</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
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Favorite course? Why?

Teacher who influenced you the most? Why?

(Include teacher's first and last name and the school where the teacher works now.)

Work experience:

What do you do for fun? And if you had no responsibilities for an entire day, how would you spend your time?

What college or post-secondary school do you plan to attend?

(Remember that we will likely print this information in our May Best & Brightest booklet. If you are not sure, list a few of the colleges that you are considering. Please include school's full name and the city and state where located.)

What are your career goals?

What is your favorite quote? Why? Be sure to include attribution.

How would a sibling or a close friend describe you?

What are your strengths? Weaknesses?

What didn't we ask you about that you would like to tell us?

Service Project

Service to the school or community is critical to us when we select a scholarship winner in each category. Describe your role in a project that had a significant impact on your school or in your community. Indicate how and why you became involved and whether this was a new initiative or an existing program. List the amount of time you spent on the project, the result of the project and what you learned from your involvement. *(This section is mandatory for applicants in all categories.)*

I certify that all information on this application is truthful. Information and quotes in this application may be used in Times Leader publications. If selected as a finalist, I agree to appear for an interview before a panel of judges during the week of March 22, 2010.

Applicant's Full Name: _____