

REMOVING THE MYSTIQUE FROM THE CHARLES SEYMOUR MEMORIAL AWARD

The purpose of this document is to clarify the high school CSF award process and to encourage all CSF chapter advisers to nominate quality candidates. Nominating students for the Charles Seymour Memorial Award is an excellent way to acknowledge those CSF Sealbearers who exemplify our motto, "Scholarship for Service."

Q. What is the Charles Seymour Memorial Award?

A. The Charles Seymour Memorial Awards have long been regarded as the highest scholastic honor that can be given to graduates of secondary schools in California.

The Charles Seymour Memorial Award was established in 1935 following the death of CSF founder Charles F. Seymour. The single winner that first year received a cash award of \$25 which covered the annual tuition to Fresno State College. Now, fifty cash grants of \$2,000 are given to Seymour finalists with five recipients receiving an additional \$3,000. Each also receives a special gold medallion.

The awards are financed primarily by CSF chapter dues, donations, and royalties received from Balfour.

Q. Who may win?

A. Not every CSF student is eligible to compete for this award. Candidates must be seniors who are CSF Life Members (Sealbearers) at the time of nomination. The nominating chapter must have paid CSF dues for the two years prior to the granting of the award. The chapter must have also submitted its Lists I, II and III to the CSF Registrar and have them approved for the previous two years.

Nominees must be regularly and significantly active in CSF.

Other important factors considered in granting the award include participation in CSF projects and commitment to various activities such as community service, student government, and other school organizations. Candidates may have earned recognition for special achievements or activities, including athletics. They may have interesting hobbies.

Q. What makes an application strong?

A.

- * Evidence of active CSF participation – This is, after all, a CSF award.
- * Anecdotes from the adviser about the nominee's CSF activities and involvement.
- * Letters of recommendation that are not repetitive catalogues of school and community activities listed elsewhere on the application, but are colorful, detailed, anecdotal statements that help the committee get to know the candidate as a person.

Q. Who selects the recipients?

A. CSF advisers may choose to nominate one or two candidates from their chapter. It is an adviser's privilege to nominate and no parent or student may nominate candidates.

All candidates from your region are then screened by advisers and a Seymour Committee member from another region of the state. From information presented on the application form and letters of recommendation, ten CSF Sealbearers from each of the five regions are selected as Seymour finalists. Students must attend and fully participate in their regional conference interview process to receive the \$2,000 award.

In each region, one is selected as the Seymour Memorial Award recipient and receives an additional award of \$3,000. Attendance at the regional conference and participation in the interview is mandatory for each Seymour finalist.

Q. How can you help your candidate become a finalist?

A. Follow these simple rules to help your candidates be selected as finalists.

Make sure you and your candidate carefully read the instructions and fill out the application completely.

Properly verify Sealbearer (Life Member) status and be sure to fill out and sign the verification section on the application. (Students do not achieve Sealbearer status until they have at least four semesters of CSF membership one of which MUST be based on senior grades.)

Make sure all letters, including candidates', are prepared according to the directions provided in the instructions.

Students should check the date of their local regional spring conference and make sure they can attend before submitting an application.

Every year, California Scholarship Federation board members look forward to meeting the outstanding students who are chosen as finalists for the prestigious Seymour Memorial Award. We hope you will continue to nominate worthy candidates. Thank you for taking the time to help make a difference in these students' lives by nominating them!

Any further questions, please contact the CSF Central Office manager at csfcjsf@socal.rr.com or (800) 437-3347.