



2023-2024 MASC Awards Information

Schools must be a member of MASC in order to apply for any award or recognition listed.

MASC Membership: <http://bit.ly/mascmember>

MASC Awards Application Information Link:

<http://bit.ly/2eSfm8T>

<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/applications/masc-awards/>

FELIX SIMON AWARDS – *Student Council Award*

General Information for the High School and Middle School Student Council Award

One purpose of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) is to encourage and assist member schools in developing their student council organizations. For this reason, member school's student councils are invited to apply for the Felix Simon Award for Leadership and Service. This is NOT a competition among councils, but rather a set of criteria for all school student councils to use to enhance leadership, service, and student empowerment within their schools.

Objectives of the Felix Simon Award:

1. To allow student council officers, members and their advisors to evaluate their council against a shared set of standards and create an opportunity for student councils to be recognized for their effectiveness.
2. For Student Councils to be recognized for their effectiveness.

There is a list of criteria with possible points that can be earned. Each student council will decide which criteria it has met and how many points to list for each criterion. Please note that many items specifically indicate the current school year, but all other items and activities held between March 7, 2024 through March 8, 2024 can count toward this Felix Simon Application.

The following items are part of the application:

- A completed application (Google form and upload of the application)
- All documentation requested for certain items in the packet
- Letters of verification and support from the council president, advisor school principal, and regional advisor
- MASC also encourages each school to produce a two to three-minute video clip summarizing your student government program that could be used at the awards ceremony (MASC Convention)

Awards will be presented to student councils achieving a total number of points equal to the standards set by the MASC Executive Team. *A minimum of 75% of the total points must be earned by a school of 550 or less population and 80% of the total points by a school of 551+ population in order to be eligible.*

On-line applications must be received (completed and documents uploaded) before 5:00 p.m., March 8, 2024

Below is a sample of the areas of assessment on the award. The assessments are NOT the same for high schools and middle schools (i.e. attendance at national conferences or workshop presenter is not a middle school assessment).

- Organizational Involvement (*NatStuCo/MASC membership; NatStuCo/MASC conference and forum attendance; MASC Executive Board members; Leadership Workshops attendance; workshop presenters; Regional involvement; etc.*)
- Council Organization (*Structure: constitution; financial procedures; representation; committees; orientation; community input; goal setting; meetings*)
- Communication (Council reports, calendar, council postings; announcement process; newsletters; communication with community, to parents, to feeder schools, with administration; coordination of clubs)
- School Improvement (Initiatives/participation in such areas as: curriculum, school climate, school improvement teams, school/community relations, etc.)
- Continuous Improvement (formalized process for evaluation of its functions)
- Activities (School Service; School Spirit Activities; Leadership Activities; Activities to Recognize Students and Members of the School Community; Community Service (outside of school); Recreational Activities for Student Enjoyment; Environmental Activities; Health Awareness Activities; Advocacy Activities; Additional Activities to Accomplish Student Council's Goals)

Recipients of the Felix Simon High School Award for Leadership and Service are eligible to reapply for this award three years following the receipt of the award.

On-line nominations must be completed with documents uploaded before 5:00 p.m., March 8, 2024.



ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

High School, Middle School, and Regional Advisor

At the school, region, and statewide levels, student council advisors work hard to support student council activities. All student council advisors contribute to the success of student council organizations. The MASC Advisor of the Year program was created to recognize the contributions of advisors to student council success across the state of Maryland. While the award does single out an individual on the state level, the purpose of the award is to highlight the many contributions made by all student council advisors throughout the state.

Each region may nominate one high school, one middle school, and one regional advisor. Member schools wishing to nominate their advisor should contact their regional advisor/president for regional selection information.

Recommendations are *required* from specific people listed on the application.

Recommendations should address the following:

- 1.) How the nominee supports the mission of MASC*
- 2.) The involvement of the nominee in student activities (include school, region, and state activities)
- 3.) What leadership qualities are displayed that enable the nominee to be an effective advisor
- 4.) How the nominee contributes to the student council, school climate, and overall school success

****The MASC mission statement reads as follows:***

The mission of MASC is to foster a statewide environment for all secondary school students to express and exchange opinions and ideas, develop leadership skills, and to promote student representation and involvement in all groups and organizations impacting the lives of students.

On-line nominations must be completed with documents uploaded before 5:00 p.m., March 8, 2024.

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARDS

High School and Middle School Principals



Research supports the fact that the principal is the key to the success of any school. Those who work in the area of student activities know that the principal is also the key to the establishment and continuation of vital programs. Without the strong support of the principal, student activities, involvement and representation at the school, region, state, and national level would not be possible. It is for that reason that MASC seeks to identify and recognize those middle and high school principals who enable and empower student leaders and student organizations while maintaining high standards for the comprehensive school program.

While this award does single out an individual at the middle and high school level, the purpose of these awards is to highlight the many contributions made by all principals throughout the state who support and nurture student activities and student leaders. To bring recognition to as many principals as possible, each regional organization is encouraged to establish its own principal recognition program.

Each region may nominate one middle and one high school principal. Member schools wishing to nominate their principal should contact their regional advisor/president for regional selection information.

The nomination process is basically the same as the process for the advisor of the year, with the exception that the three typewritten recommendations come from the nominator, regional president, and regional advisor.



On-line nominations must be completed with documents uploaded before 5:00 p.m., March 8, 2024.