

**Governor's Scholars Program**  
**Helpful Hints for the 2020 Community Recommendation Form**

*The mission of the Governor's Scholars Program is to encourage intellectual curiosity, promote self-development and leadership, and create an extraordinary community of learners for five weeks on a college campus.*

When filling out the Community Recommendation form, please:

- Provide important and relevant details
- Focus on and write about the applicant (not only his or her family members)
- Provide details (factual or anecdotal) that show you know the applicant well
- Support statements about the applicant with specific and individualized examples.
- Ask the recommender for the reasons he or she wants to participate in the Governor's Scholars Program
- Provide the members of the selection committee a sense of how well you know the applicant by using specific examples that make this applicant unique
- Emphasize the applicant's community involvement and engagement beyond academic performance
- Apply the numerical rankings thoughtfully and intentionally

**Tips for Question 1** – *What do you consider to be the most relevant strength and weakness of this applicant as a member of the community?*

When referring to the applicant's strengths and weaknesses, please ensure your answer to this question matches the number (1-5) given to the applicant in the qualities section of the recommendation form. If you have scored an applicant lower on a given quality, explain that here.

If you have known the applicant for less than a year, please emphasize the most impactful moments during that time. What qualities, skills, or characteristics has the applicant displayed as a committed citizen, a mature teenage individual, and as a potential leader in the community?

When referring to specific examples, consider if the applicant is a follower or leader. Does the applicant take the initiative to create projects and develop ideas (leadership), or does the applicant work well with established programs and community organizations with a specific mission (follower)? Express if the applicant is a leader or follower with the understanding that both traits are needed in society.

**Tips for Question 2** – *Based on your experience with the applicant, what would you expect the single greatest contribution of this individual to be at the Governor's Scholars Program?*

When answering this question, it is important to understand that the GSP brings together more than 1,000 high achieving students and the contributions of the applicant are being compared to other very accomplished and successful applicants on the same level. Rather than

providing an overview of the applicant's resume, provide specific examples showing how the applicant can contribute to this type of community.

**Tips for Question 3** – *In your view, what is the potential of this individual as a future leader in his/her chosen field?*

Answer this question in the time frame of 5-10 years from now. Many applicants will go to college, so this question is more about how you see the applicant positively impacting the community as an educated adult. Draw connections between your present experiences with this applicant and the applicant's future potential.

**Tips for Question 4** – *What is most unique about this applicant? If you are aware of any hardships/conditions (social, emotional, or otherwise) that may impact this applicant's participation in the Governor's Scholars Program, please note them here. If information that you feel is not included elsewhere in your recommendation, please feel free to include it here also.*

Detailing any hardships/conditions does not negatively impact the applicant's score. This gives the committee an idea of what this applicant has achieved in spite of any particular circumstance or situation.

Question 4 is also an opportunity for you to mention any important and relevant details that did not fit the parameters of the previous questions.

**Additional help on our webpage ([gsp.ky.gov](http://gsp.ky.gov)):**

- The Helpful Hints Packet (under Applicants tab, Application and Forms page)
- Community Recommendation Sample (under Applicants tab, Application and Forms page)
- Recommendation VLOG (under Applicants tab, VLOGs page)