

**DO NOT
STAPLE**

**2026 Governor's Scholars Program
Student Application Form**

**For GSP Office Use
Only**

Journal No. _____

Focus Areas: _____

**IMPORTANT: Keep a copy for your records.
Refer to Helpful Hints at gsp.ky.gov**

*****Application Must Be TYPED**

School District	High School		
County of Residence	School County		
<u>Student Information:</u>			
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
Preferred Name	Email:		
Address (Street/Route/Post Office Box)		City	State Zip
Phone () -		Birth Date (MM/DD/YY) / /	
<u>Parent/Guardian Information</u> (Please Note: Correspondence from our office will be addressed as listed below)			
1. Full Name (With Title: i.e., Mr./Mrs., Dr., Rev., etc.)		Primary Phone () -	
Home Address (Type SAME if address is same as applicant's)		City	State Zip
Place of Employment		Secondary Phone () -	
Occupation and Title		Email	
<u>2. Full Name (With Title: i.e., Mr./Mrs., Dr., Rev., etc.)</u>			
Home Address (Type SAME if address is same as applicant's)		City	State Zip
Place of Employment		Secondary Phone () -	
Occupation and Title		Email	

The following information is requested for statistical purposes.

Sex: Female Race/Origin: White Hispanic Black/African-American
 Male Asian Native American Other (specify) _____

Indicate if a parent/guardian listed above has been previously affiliated with the Program (e.g., an alum of the Program, parent of an alum etc.) Yes No

Student's Name: _____

2026 FOCUS AREAS

Indicate below three preferences for the Focus Area that you would like to study. Before making your choices, please read the **Statement of Curriculum**, which describes each Focus Area in more detail. Choose subjects that you would like to know more about. Do **NOT** choose subjects in which you feel deficient in the hope of improving your skills with summer study. You may wish to consult your teachers, families, and others before listing your preferences.

Every effort will be made to provide you with one of your choices. If accepted, you will receive a letter from your instructor before the program opens describing in greater detail what your Focus Area will encompass.

Subjects may be presented in a variety of non-traditional and interdisciplinary ways that may differ from what you expect or have experienced. Remember, courses are offered for academic enrichment, not for advanced skill training.

OF THE FOLLOWING CHOICES, CHOOSE ONLY 3

Indicate your three choices by marking an "X" before the name of the Focus Area.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agribusiness & Biotechnology (1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Analysis (14) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Design (2) | <input type="checkbox"/> International Relations (15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy (3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Journalism & Mass Media (16) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological & Environmental Issues (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Modes of Mathematical Thinking (17) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business, Accounting & Entrepreneurship (5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Theory & Performance (18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication & Social Theory (6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy (19) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science & Information Technology (7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Science (20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing & Literary Studies (8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Political & Legal Issues (21) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Anthropology (9) | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology & Behavioral Studies (22) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering (10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy & Administration (23) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Film Studies (11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Language & Culture (24) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forensic Science (12) | <small>(Requires a minimum of one-year of previous study.)</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Industry (13) | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts (25) |

Student's Name: _____

Student Consent and Agreement

If accepted, I commit to remain in the program for the entire five weeks without interruption and to abide by its rules. I attest that the information provided by me in this application is correct, and that the writing entry is my original work.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parental Consent

As parent or legal guardian, I give consent for _____ to participate for the full five weeks in the Governor's Scholars Program and to abide by its rules and regulations. I also give my consent for the release of school records and test scores to those involved in the overall selection process for Governor's Scholars and to those administering, teaching, and counseling in the Governor's Scholars Program.

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature: _____

Date _____

The results of the selection process are final.

The superintendent/principal is responsible for forwarding only one copy of each candidate's entire application, including all attachments, to:

**Governor's Scholars Program
Student Applications
112 Consumer Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601.**

Principals/Guidance Counselors of participating schools in a district should be notified of the final selections of the school district.

Final selections of Governor's Scholars will be made on the recommendation of a Statewide Selection Committee. All candidates competing at the statewide level will be notified directly by the Governor's Scholars Program of their status (Accepted, Alternate, or Not Accepted).

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

The Governor's Scholars Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, physical capabilities, national and ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age in administration of its educational or admission policies. All admitted students are granted the rights and privileges generally accorded or made available to high school students while participating in the program.

STUDENT PROFILE

1. **Extracurricular Activities** – List the activities in which you have been involved and provide a description of your contribution to that activity. Activities can reflect participation in school, church, community, and civic functions or a personal talent during the 9th, 10th & 11th grades. Activities from the summer prior to entering the 9th grade can and should be included. Your description should include: what responsibilities you assumed, the importance of your role, how much time you committed to the activity, and how often you participated. Do not abbreviate activity names. (Additional pages may be attached if needed.)

Review our “Helpful Hints: Best Practices & Important Information” document to find samples and examples for this section.

A. Activity:	Grades:
Contribution:	

J. Activity:	Grades:
Contribution:	
K. Activity:	Grades:
Contribution:	

School Journal No.

STUDENT PROFILE

2. **Service (voluntary or paid)** – List your volunteer or paid service from the 9th, 10th and 11th grades. Explain your specific responsibilities and the impact these experiences have had on your awareness, growth, and development. In doing so, you will be able to demonstrate the depth and breadth of your commitment to others. Indicate your total time committed and the frequency for each service you list (Additional pages may be attached if needed.)
- Review our “Helpful Hints: Best Practices & Important Information” document to find samples and examples for this section.**

Service	Total Time Committed e.g. 120 hours	Frequency and Length of Service e.g. 2 days a week for 6 months

STUDENT PROFILE

3. Honors/Awards – List awards received for school activities or from outside organizations. Describe each honor/award and explain the importance of it. This section should reflect honors/awards received during the 9th, 10th & 11th grades. Do not abbreviate the name of the organization granting the award. Awards received multiple times should be listed together. (Additional pages may be attached if needed.)

Review our “Helpful Hints: Best Practices & Important Information” document to find samples and examples for this section.

Code: I-International, N-National, S-State, R-Regional, D-District, C-Community, or HS-High School.

Code	Honor/Award	Grade	Individual or Group Honor

2026 Writing Entry Prompts

Writing Entry Prompt 1

Harriet Beecher Stowe once stated, “To understand Kentucky, one must feel its warmth and listen to its stories.” Storytelling is an integral part of the formation of identity – our communities and our own. The stories that our families and communities tell us about themselves and the world form our first map of the universe.

Write about and share with us a story that you tell or a story that you (and your family) will be retelling for years to come. Hint: The story must be your own, and its telling should have significance to you. What is important to us is what the story reveals about you.

Writing Entry Prompt 2

As a part of a local committee, you have been asked to submit a letter inviting a filmmaker to film a documentary on your life as a Kentucky high school student. They will spend a day with you as their host, providing a tour of your hometown and other places important to your life. **Write an invitation letter sharing the reasons they should select you, why the filmmaker should engage with the local community, and how the community will benefit from this production.** Hint: Consider how the documentary will represent your life and how your perspective may represent others in your local community.

Writing Entry Prompt 3

As Kentucky author Silas House wrote in one of his novels, “most all of the extraordinary things happen with no more loudness than a whisper.” **Describe an experience you perceive as extraordinary, but that happened quietly.** Hint: What you see as extraordinary is key to explaining yourself to your readers.

Writing Entry Prompt 4

Every positive change, every jump to a higher level of awareness, every time to ascend to a higher rung on the ladder of personal trajectory involves a period of transformation. **Describe an experience that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood. What did you learn from this transition?** This could involve your culture (“rite of passage”), an incident in your community or family, or even a revelation of skills, ideas, life lessons, etc. Hint: Do not spend most of your entry on the details of your experience; what is important to us is your insight into the lessons you learned and/or knowledge you gained.

Writing Entry Prompt 5

Wendell Berry, a Kentucky author, claimed, “It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work... The mind that is not baffled is not employed.” **What is something that baffles you?** Hint: What baffles us is likely something we think deeply about; identifying what this is should tell your reader about who you are and what you value.

Writing Entry Prompt 6

Famous Kentuckian Muhammad Ali once said, “The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up.” **What’s your dream, and what would it mean for you to “wake up?”** Hint: How you define your dream in this scenario will tell us about who you are, so personalize that part of the response instead of using a generic concept of making one’s dreams come true.