

**Governor's Scholars Program
2026 Community Recommendation Form
(for Character Reference)**

MUST BE TYPED

(Once completed, please return to student or school)

Recommender's Name: Jenny Smith

Applicant's Name: Angela Taylor

Recommender's Position & Organization: Human Resources Specialist, Technical Company

Recommender's Phone: 502-555-5555 Email: jenny@abc.com
(Confidential and only used if needed)

How long have you known this applicant? Approximately 10 years

In what capacity have you interacted with this applicant? Initially, I got to know Angela as a neighbor. Over the years, our relationship has grown as we've interacted through community service, church, and academic activities. Angela has become more than just a neighbor or friend; I consider her like one of my own children.

Please check the number that represents your experience with this applicant as related to the qualities listed below. 5 represents the highest score and 1 represents the lowest score.

Willingness and ability to contribute to the community	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Cooperation, social and emotional maturity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Character, integrity, and honesty	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Consideration for and attitude toward others	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Flexibility, willingness to adapt to new situations and accept changes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Motivation, initiative, and self-starting ability	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Willingness to pursue visionary ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Self-discipline, responsibility, and dedication to following through	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Creativity and originality of thought	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Inquisitiveness, interest in a variety of topics and issues	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5

As you respond to the following questions, please be sure to include specific details and examples. Brief responses that lack specific information do not provide the selection committee with sufficient information and will result in a lower score.

1. What do you consider to be the most relevant strength and weakness of this applicant as a member of the community?

Many considerable strengths stand out when I think of Angela, but her most prevalent strength is her level of integrity. Her words and actions are always genuine; what you see is what you get with her. She is the most trustworthy young person I know, and she understands the value of having a reputation as a person of integrity.

I have entrusted Angela with responsibilities that are usually reserved for people much older than she. A great example of this is her work at a residential facility for developmentally challenged adults. Many of these people have a multitude of mental as well as physical disabilities. A standout amongst our volunteers, Angela worked tirelessly and compassionately with the residents and staff members. I could always rely on her to "roll up her sleeves" and take on even the most daunting tasks. She has humbly and cheerfully served in whatever capacity that was asked of her. Without any hesitation, I know Angela will do what she says she will do, and she can be relied upon in a crunch. Angela is clearly driven by a strong inner moral compass. I believe this is derived from her unfailing compassion and concern for others.

Angela quickly demonstrated leadership potential while working with me. She has the ability to make sound, timely decisions in stressful situations. She is very analytical and can rapidly understand how work needs to be done, and she has communicated this well with the rest of the volunteers. Always keeping the greater good of the residents in mind, she helped empower them to be more self-reliant, removing barriers where she found them, and solved problems many of us with more experience missed. For Angela, it wasn't simply enough to just "show up" or be pleasant to the people she served, she actually brought new ideas to the table that improved their

overall experience. She created a positive, energetic environment where everyone's ideas were valued, and the residents understood they could trust and depend on her. A specific example of this was the need to provide resiliency within our volunteer staff. Year by year, it was becoming more and more challenging to find trustworthy, reliable volunteers. This was a huge problem, as the residents did not adapt well to constant change. Angela suggested that we more heavily recruit young adults/high school aged people to serve as volunteers. Once she communicated the need within her school and church community, our volunteer population quickly grew and became more stabilized. New and profound relationships struck up between the residents and the young people, and it was a win/win for all participants. Furthermore, Angela was able to build not only the trust and respect of the people she served, but also the team of volunteers. She built a positive work relationship by consistently making good decisions, keeping her commitments, treating others with respect, and adhering to high ethical standards. She wanted to be certain she did a great job and openly sought out feedback in order to improve.

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?

Angela has many strengths, talents and wisdom beyond her years. I expect her contributions to GSP to be numerous. Angela has an incredible love of learning; she is curious and persistent in her quest to explore new subjects. She always has a repertoire filled with interesting tidbits that she shares with others. Her intellect and zest for learning are impressive, and no doubt will go far in this world. She sees the joy and fun of learning, and that positive attitude spreads to others automatically. She constantly challenges herself and never shies away from a tough area of study. This constant self-improvement/intrinsic learning style is contagious, and she will serve as a strong role model for her peers at GSP. Past performance predicts future performance, and Angela's level and depth of contributions as a mentor and scholar will be extraordinary for this program.

3. In your view, what is the potential of this individual as a future leader in their chosen professional field?

The topic of career choice has been one that Angela and I have addressed often. She has told me she finds deep fulfillment in her volunteering and desires to take that interest to the next level. She has noticed in her interactions with the residents the calming and therapeutic effects of creating art and wants to combine this observation with her own passion for artistry into a career. We have researched together the different paths she can take, and whichever Angela chooses will be very lucky to have her. The beauty of all this is that I did not know she enjoyed art until we started having these conversations which just further reiterates the richness and complexity of her as a person. More than all her accomplishments and what she has to give others; she is assuredly herself. Any field, and any program, will benefit and blossom through her involvement and leadership.

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 important is not included elsewhere in your recommendation, please feel free to include it here also.

This is a tough question to answer, since Angela is amazingly dynamic and truly unique in many ways. From a very young age, I've observed her to be extremely curious, and she had an absolute hunger for learning. She is a voracious reader, and often times we discuss at length the books we are currently reading or want to read. She has the ability to absorb and apply abstract principles and transfer these points of learning to other fields and applications, which is a relatively rare ability. Additionally, Angela understands that she is in charge of her own learning; she takes ownership of her academics and obligations. She works independently and pushes herself to not only get her work done, but to excel at it. She constantly raises the bar for herself. She's a magnificent role model for my own daughter who is one year younger than Angela. My daughter admires her greatly and sees Angela as a mentor. These are astonishingly unique traits for anyone, but given the fact that Angela is a sixteen-year-old, these are truly remarkable characteristics.

It is important to know that Angela understands her words carry weight, and she is extraordinarily dependable. Because she is so trustworthy and reliable, she is often asked to take on tasks that are out of her scope; carrying burdens that are not necessarily hers to bear. If she has a "weakness," it's that she does not set limits to the workload she is willing to take on. She manages superior volunteer work, a rigorous academic life, work, family, and social interactions with amazing ease. Whatever challenge is in front of her, she eagerly tackles it. I personally believe that is this inner drive and true dedication to all that she does that makes Angela a wonderful candidate for the Governor's Scholars Program.