



# Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (A.C.E.) Award

## Club Informational Packet





## CLUB Information – For Club use ONLY

In subsequent pages of this document, you will find the process for the submission by the counselor and the student for the A.C.E. Award. We have created separate packets for Counselor/Student. You will find the entire A.C.E. Packet at <https://calnevexchange.org/awards/ace/>.

The Accepting the Challenge of Excellence Award (A.C.E.) recognizes high school students who have dramatically changed their attitude and performance sometime during their high school years and now will graduate from high school. These students have often overcome significant physical, emotional, or social obstacles, yet few receive recognition. A partial list of difficulties to overcome could include physical, language, child abuse, delinquency, and/or substance abuse. There are three levels of competition - Club, District, and National.

*Why Should Your Club Participate?* The A.C.E. Award is a positive program with two essential objectives. First, it helps encourage students to overcome their hardships and get back on track toward a high school diploma. Second, the award recognizes those students who are often overlooked for their accomplishments. This special recognition is a powerful example to all students that hard work and perseverance pay off.

### CLUB LEVEL COMPETITION

Participating in the A.C.E. Award program is voluntary. Each Club's Board must determine its interest, the number of available scholarships it can offer, and the financial means to support the program. **The Club A.C.E. Award submission deadline is March 14th, 2025 from your High Schools.**

### DISTRICT LEVEL COMPETITION

Each Club can submit one female and one male student from each school in their community. If your students are selected as the CA/NV District A.C.E. Award winners, the students must provide a 5" x 7" high-quality photo in JPEG format for publicity purposes. **The District A.C.E. Award submission deadline is April 4, 2025.**

### NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION

The CA/NV District A.C.E. Award winners are entered into the National Exchange Club competition. One winner will receive a \$15,000 scholarship and plaque. **The submission deadline for our district is June 1, 2025 to National.**



## Detailed Instructions

1. The Club Chairperson contacts the Senior Counselor or Scholarship Chairperson at the High School(s) you have chosen. Provide the counselor with a copy of these instructions. Provide deadlines and stress placing the responsibility of completing the packet on the student. Provide extra copies for the students and their parents as needed so they understand their respective responsibilities.
2. Have the counselor give the entry form or club URL to the students they believe to be well qualified. Only 1 male and 1 female may be submitted from each High School or the determined process by your club to choose an awardee. Give a deadline **AHEAD** of the District deadline, your phone number, and e-mail address where they can contact you if they need any clarification.
3. Before submitting applications to the District Chair, be sure to fill out the CERTIFICATION & INFORMATION SECTION 5, and the contact information is completed by club chairperson, student, parent, counselor or high school official, and club president.
4. ATTACH THESE ITEMS TO THE IDENTIFICATION SHEET AND EMAIL TO DISTRICT CHAIR BY THE DEADLINE or submit via electronic form at <https://calnevexchange.org/forms/ace-awards/> .
5. District will notify you around April 18<sup>th</sup> if your student is chosen as the CAL/NEV District Male/Female A.C.E. Award. You must, within 3 days, mail to the District Chairperson a 5x7 inch high quality color photo (preferred format is a JPG submitted electronically) of the student. The photo will be used for publicity at District and National Convention. Photo will not be returned.
6. YOUR WINNER MUST ATTEND THE DISTRICT CONVENTION! If your student cannot participate in the convention, the first runner-up will become the winner. So, make sure your nominee is able to participate in the convention when you submit their application.
7. This year's District Convention will be held on June 7th and 8th 2025 in Irvine, California. The winners will be notified of the time and place prior to April 18th, 2025. The Award will be presented on June 8th, 2025.



8. All Convention arrangements for the student and their chaperone will be the responsibility of the District A.C.E. Committee, and the Convention Coordinator, Ken Owens, e-mail kaowens2@verizon.net. Please submit all questions to the District A.C.E. Committee. Do not contact the convention coordinator unless your student is selected as a winner and you have communicated with the committee chair first.
9. The District, not the sponsoring club, will reimburse the recipients for the following:
  - a. Ground transportation expense only to and from the Convention at \$.25 per mile (round-trip).
  - b. One room hotel accommodation with two queen beds for one night (room & tax cost only)
  - c. Three (3) tickets for the Saturday evening's District Installation Dinner, and three (3) tickets for the A.C.E. presentations Sunday morning.
  - d. THESE FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE EXPLAINED CLEARLY BY THE CLUB CHAIRPERSON AND PARTICIPANTS MUST AGREE TO ABIDE BY THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.
10. **It is your responsibility as your Club's A.C.E. Chair to (1) have your winner's mileage voucher ready to present to Ken Owens, the District COO when you arrive; (2) have all pertinent information about when the recipient and their chaperone's will arrive, their names, and relationship to the recipient.**
11. The A.C.E. winner will each be entered, automatically, in the National Exchange Club's A.C.E. contest by the District Chairperson. The other students will receive a consolation award from the District. Their names and club sponsors will be listed in the District Convention Program for recognition.
12. Winners of the National A.C.E. Contest will receive their award at the National Exchange Club Convention held from July 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. The winners must be able to attend the National Convention. National will make all travel arrangements.



## Timeline

**November 2024** | Club to provide program packet and nomination form to high school counselors in your area.

**January 2025** | Send an email reminder to the counselors on your submission deadline.

**February 1, 2025** | Club to send an email reminder to the counselors on the upcoming submission deadline.

**March 14, 2025** | All Student Applications via PDF or electronic form must have been submitted to the Club for consideration by this date.

**April 4, 2025** | Club's to forward winning submissions to the CA/NV District A.C.E. Chairperson for CA/NV District Competition.

**April 18, 2025** | CA/NV District winners announced.

**April 2025 - Early May 2025** | Announce your Club's honorees. Plan a special recognition for your honorees, inviting their families.

**June 1, 2025** | CA/NV District A.C.E. winners are announced and submitted to the National Exchange Club for consideration by the National A.C.E. Chairperson.

**June 7, 2025** | CA/NV District A.C.E. winners are honored at the annual District Convention in Irvine, California.

**July 9, 2025** | The National A.C.E. winner is honored at the National Convention and awarded \$15,000.



## A.C.E. Chairperson

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### **Can't get a hold of Cynthia?**

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