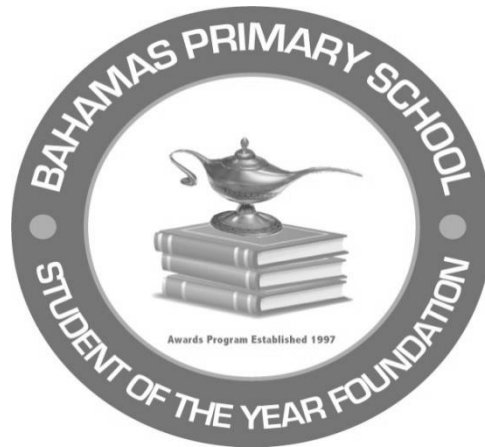


Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation



Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program Information Manual

Vision Statement

The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation is committed to recognizing and encouraging academic excellence and leadership development among the ***Who's Who in the Primary Schools*** in our educational system. Through this prestigious awards program, we seek to reward, encourage, and inspire these students in their pursuit of excellence.

Mission Statement

The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program recognizes outstanding 6th grade students in the Bahamian Educational system regardless of colour, creed, family heritage, island or school representation, nationality or religious affiliation.

Frequently Asked Questions – Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program

1. What is the Bahamas Primary Student of the Year Awards Program?

The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program is a premier National Awards Recognition program for 6th graders in The Bahamas. Since it was established in 1997, over 3,000 primary school students have been recognized and **over \$2.5 Million** in scholarships and prizes presented. **The 2023 Totals: \$246,000.00 in scholarships and \$50,000.00 in prizes (Airline tickets, trophies, medals, computers and other prizes)**

2. Who sponsors the Bahamas Primary Student of the Year Awards Program?

The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program is sponsored by The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation, in partnership with the Nassau, Bahamas Pan-Hellenic Council, the local coalition of Fraternities and Sororities.

3. What is the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation?

The Foundation was incorporated under The Companies Act of 1992 of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in June 2004, as a fully registered non-profit foundation. The Foundation was given birth through the Nassau, Bahamas Council of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. It is an autonomous non-profit educational entity dedicated exclusively to public, charitable, and educational purposes of the Awards Program.

4. How are students nominated for the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program?

Students must have been nominated by their respective schools. A letter from the Schools' Principal / Vice-Principal must accompany the official application form. The letter from the Principal / Vice-Principal serves as official endorsement of the nomination. Application packages missing this letter will not be accepted or reviewed.

5. **Who is eligible to be nominated for the Awards Program?**

The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program recognizes outstanding 6th grade students in the Bahamian educational system regardless of colour, creed, nationality or religious affiliation. **Each school could nominate only (1) student for the Awards Program.**

6. **What are the application requirements for the Student of the Year Awards Program?**

Students must submitted a completed Application Form, A 500 Word Essay; Copies of official report cards (**Covering 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades only**), Three headshot photographs (These photos are for the newspapers, website and souvenir awards booklet.) Photos will not be returned, Newspaper Clippings / Copies of Awards & Certificates (**Covering 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades only**), Three (3) letters of recommendation - School Principal / Vice-Principal, Classroom Teacher / Civic or Community Leader / Former Teacher, Religious Leader / Extra-curricular Coach (ie. Sports or Dance) and the above items should be neatly attached to a portfolio or folder.

7. **Are there any special requirements with regards to the portfolio / folder?**

The portfolio / folder must be **no larger than 12 x 12** and is limited to a maximum of 50 pages. (using both sides). **Please note that this year, portfolios will have to adhere to the following guidelines: NO MECHANICAL APPARATUS; NO THREE DIMENSIONAL PROJECTS; WEIGHT RESTRICTION 10 LBS and NO POP UPS AND PULL OUTS. All packages submitted will become the property of The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation and WILL NOT BE RETURNED.** Parents are encouraged to make a personal copy.

8. **What is the deadline for the annual Awards Program?**

The deadline for submission of completed Application Packages for the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year was the **Friday, February 2nd, 2024 at 4:00pm EST**. The Foundation will not be responsible for application packages that are late, lost, illegible, damaged, or incorrectly addressed entries for any reason. **Application packages should be available on the Foundation's Website in November for the following year Awards Program.**

9. Who is responsible for judging the application packages?

An Independent Distinguished Panel of Judges each year reviews application packages receive and determine the overall winner and finalists. **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.**

10. When is the Student of the Year Awards Ceremony held?

The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program for 2024 will be announced shortly. It is expected that there will be a Medal Presentation (Friday Night) and an Awards Ceremony (Saturday Night).

The Foundation is tentatively looking at May 31st, 2024 and June 1st, 2024.

11. Is there a website?

Yes, you can visit our website: www.bahamaspstoy.org. You will find information on The Awards History, Our Patrons, Our Board of Directors, Our Past Honourees and Our Corporate Sponsors.

12. Will each child be recognized?

Yes, Each child receives a trophy, a certificate and a medal in recognition of his/her accomplishments. Please note that the Foundation consider each nominee who participates in the Awards Program, a winner. Therefore, parents and family members are encouraged to applaud the child's nomination in the program.

In addition, nominees are prominently highlighted as the Student of the Year Awards Ceremony airs repeatedly on ZNS Channel 11, Cable Bahamas Channel 12 and Jones Communications Network – Channel 14. Nominees are seen as national role models for academic excellence.

13. Does students from the Family Islands have a realistic chance to win?

Yes, The Distinguished Panel of Judges take into consideration each nominee's accomplishments with the knowledge of what activities, organizations and community service opportunities are available on a island and/or campus. Since 1998, students from the Family Islands have been selected as Student of the Year, First Runner Up, Finalists and Semi-Finalists.

14. Who are the Past Student of the Year Winners and what schools they represented?

The Past Student of the Year Winners are: **1997** - Vashti Darling - St. John's College – Prep, New Providence; **1998** - Andrea Moultrie - St. John's College – Prep, New Providence; **1999** - Tiffany Moncur - Carmichael Primary School, New Providence; **2000** - Sasha Bain - Walter Parker Primary, Grand Bahama; **2001** - Kenny Roberts - Spanish Wells All Age, Eleuthera; **2002** - Zachary Lyons - Queen's College – Elementary, New Providence; **2003** - Tanielle Curtis - Sts. Francis & Joseph Catholic Primary, New Providence; **2004** - Saul Salonga - Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary, Grand Bahama; **2005** - Shirdat Jadoo - Maurice Moore Primary School, Grand Bahama, **2006** - George Zonicle - Bahamas Academy SDA – Elementary, New Providence; **2007** – Taran Carey – Tarpum Bay Primary School, Eleuthera, **2008** – James Boyce – Hope Town Primary School, Abaco, **2009** – Khes Adderley – Temple Christian Academy, New Providence; **2010** – Jared Fitzgerald – Xavier's Lower School, New Providence, **2011** – Anna Albury – Hope Town Primary School, Abaco; **2012** – Nadja Simon – Genesis Academy, New Providence; **2013** – Lauryn Rolle – St. Thomas More Catholic Primary, New Providence ; **2014** – Donovan Butler – Xavier's Lower School, New Providence; **2015** – Samaiya Lundy – Sunland Baptist Academy, Grand Bahama; **2016** – Lila Nottage – Lyford Cay International School, New Providence; **2017** – Hannah Edomwonyi – Clara Evan Primary School, Andros; **2018** – Remington Minnis – Eva Hilton Primary, New Providence; **2019** – Lauren Scriven – St. Francis de Sales Catholic Primary, Abaco; **2020** – Hayley Wilson – Summit Academy, New Providence; **2021** – Chelsea Smith – Windsor School at Albany, New Providence; **2022** – Jerlea Adderley – Sts. Francis & Joseph Catholic Primary, New Providence and **2023** – Matteo Davies – Bishop Michael Eldon School, Grand Bahama.

15. Will scholarships be presented to any of the students?

Since 1997, students have received scholarships totalling **more than \$2 Million** thanks to corporate donors. **Scholarships received must be used towards the student's secondary education in a Bahamian educational institution.** Students receiving a scholarship must agree to abide by the established guidelines governing the awarding a scholarship in the Awards Program.

16. Who is responsible for Family Island Nominees Travel?

The Foundation will provide all Family Island Students with their travel to - New Providence for the Awards Ceremony. This is usually done through the donation from Corporate Bahamas and Individual sponsors. **Please note that the travel of the chaperone and/or family members will be the responsibilities of those individuals. In addition, the living accommodations in New Providence for the Parents, Nominees and/or Chaperones are their personal responsibility.**

17. How many nominees were in the 2023 Awards Program?

There are 123 Nominees in the 2023 Awards Program: These students are representing Abaco, Acklins, Andros, Berry Islands, Bimini, Cat Island, Crooked Island Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand Bahama, Inagua, Long Island, Mayaguana, New Providence and San Salvador.