



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Championship

### 2024 Outstanding Senior Athlete Scholarship Award Guidelines & Application Instructions

#### OVERVIEW

As part of the YMCA's commitment to strengthen community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, YMCA of the USA will award two applicants to receive the YMCA of the USA Outstanding Senior Athlete Scholarship Award. The award recognizes two gymnasts for their excellence in academic achievement, demonstration of the YMCA core values and commitment to strengthening their community through participation in the YMCA competitive gymnastics program. The selected individuals will each be granted \$2,000 to be issued directly to their respective institution for higher learning (University/College or Technical/Trade School).

#### Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- Be a 2024 graduating high school senior competing in YMCA gymnastics for at least five years.
- Maintain a cumulative (all semesters of high school) grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 (or equivalent scale) during their senior year in high school.
- Must submit (unofficial) academic transcripts.
- Have plans to continue education at an accredited university or college, or a technical/trade school. If selected, must submit proof of enrollment.
- Present three letters of recommendation: Letters can be provided by coach, teacher, advisor, YMCA staff person, etc. and should reflect the athlete's display of the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Please limit letters to one page each.
- Present a two-page (double-spaced) reflection essay on how YMCA National Gymnastics or other Y programming has impacted your personal development and connected you to community.
- Compete in the 2024 YMCA National Gymnastics Championship during senior year and be present to accept award.

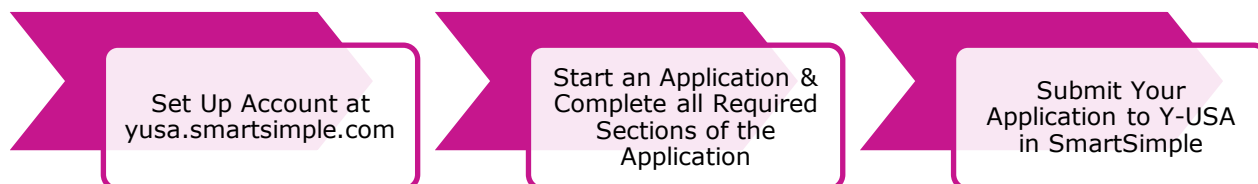
#### DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted in YMCA of the USA's SmartSimple system **by May 1, 2024** to be considered.

#### HOW TO APPLY

Applications are accepted via Y-USA's SmartSimple online application system (<http://yusa.smartsimple.com>) from **February 15, 2024 to May 1, 2024 at 11:59PM Eastern Time.**

### Steps to Apply in SmartSimple



- First-time applicants must register online at [yusa.smartsimple.com](http://yusa.smartsimple.com). Please select "**Community Member**" as your registration type when setting up your account.
- Applications must be completed and submitted in SmartSimple **by May 1, 2024** to be considered
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel of local YMCA staff appointed by the YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Advisory Committee.
- Recipients will be announced during the 2024 YMCA National Gymnastics Championships at the Opening Ceremony and at the Graduating Senior Reception (June 20, 2024)
- A check for \$2,000 will be issued directly to each athlete's institution of higher learning after receipt of proof of enrollment

### APPLICATION OVERVIEW

**The application questions are provided for reference only; applications must be completed and submitted in Y-USA's SmartSimple site ([yusa.smartsimple.com](http://yusa.smartsimple.com)) to be valid.**

### Application Eligibility Questions

Must be able to answer "Yes" to each question in order to be eligible to apply:

- Are you a 2024 graduating high school senior who has competed in YMCA gymnastics for at least five years?
- Have you maintained a cumulative (all semesters of high school) grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 (or equivalent scale) during your senior year of high school?
- Do you have plans to continue your education at an accredited university or college, or a technical/trade school? Please note, if awarded, you will be required to submit proof of enrollment.
- Will you be competing in the 2024 YMCA National Gymnastics Championship?

### Application Questions

#### Applicant Information

1. Applicant Name

2. YMCA Affiliation
3. Name of Gymnastics Coach
4. Number of Years Participating in YMCA Gymnastics
5. Number of Years Competing in the YMCA National Gymnastics Championships

### **Education**

6. Name of High School
7. Date of High School Graduation
8. Name of the University/College or Technical/Trade School the applicant will be attending
9. Enter your cumulative High School Grade Point Average:
10. Please attach unofficial academic transcript
11. Extracurricular/Volunteer Activities: Please describe volunteer work, including years and level of involvement during your high school years with community-based organizations.

### **Letters of Recommendation and Reflection Essay**

12. Please upload three letters of recommendation. Instructions: Letters can be provided by coach, teacher, advisor, YMCA staff person, etc. and should reflect the athlete's display of the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Please limit letters to one page each.
13. Please response to the following prompt: How has YMCA National Gymnastics or other Y programming impacted your personal development and connected you to community? Responses should be approximately 500 words long (equivalent to two-pages double spaced in MS Word or your word processor).

### **Confirmations & Approvals**

- [All applicants must attest]: I understand that if the applying athlete is selected as the recipient of the \$2,000 YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Championship Outstanding Athlete Scholarship Award, funds will be paid directly to the university or college in which the athlete officially enrolls (proof of enrollment must be submitted). If the athlete decides to transfer to another school, the scholarship may be transferred upon approval of the YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Advisory Committee. If, for any reason, the athlete decides not to attend university or college the scholarship will be null and void.
- Upload a signed copy of the parent and guardian approval form.

# YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Championship

## Parent / Guardian Approval Form

### OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION

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### Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- Be a graduating high school senior competing in YMCA gymnastics for at least five years.
- Maintain a cumulative (all semesters of high school) grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 (or equivalent scale) during their senior year in high school.
- Must submit (unofficial) academic transcripts.
- Have plans to continue education at an accredited university or college, or technical/trade school. If selected, must submit proof of enrollment.
- Present three letters of recommendation: Letters can be provided by coach, teacher, advisor, YMCA staff person, etc. and should reflect the athlete's display of the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Please limit letters to one page each.
- Present a two-page (double-spaced) reflection essay on how YMCA National Gymnastics or other Y programming has impacted your personal development and connected you to community.
- Compete in this year's YMCA National Gymnastics Championship during senior year and be present to accept award.
- Complete and submit a scholarship application by the application deadline in YMCA of the USA's SmartSimple system ([yusa.smartsimple.com](http://yusa.smartsimple.com)).

### Application Process

- Applications are accepted via Y-USA's SmartSimple online application system (<http://yusa.smartsimple.com>) during the application period.
- Submitted applications will be reviewed by a panel of local YMCA staff appointed by the YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Advisory Committee.
- Recipients will be announced during the YMCA National Gymnastics Championships at the

Opening Ceremony and at the Graduating Senior Reception.

- For recipients, a check for \$2,000 will be issued directly to each athlete's institution of higher learning after receipt of proof of enrollment

**PARENT & GUARDIAN APPROVAL**

**In order to apply, applicants must upload a signed copy of this form. The applicant and the applicant's parent/guardian must sign the form.**

**Confirmations**

I understand that if the applying athlete is selected as the recipient of the \$2,000 YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Championship Outstanding Athlete Scholarship Award, funds will be paid directly to the institution of higher learning in which the athlete officially enrolls (proof of enrollment must be submitted). If the athlete decides to transfer to another school, the scholarship may be transferred upon approval of the YMCA of the USA National Gymnastics Advisory Committee. If, for any reason, the athlete decides not to attend university or college the scholarship will be null and void.

**Please note this form must be signed and uploaded into YMCA of the USA's SmartSimple system ([yusa.smartsimple.com](http://yusa.smartsimple.com)) as part of the application packet.**

**Applicant's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent / Guardian's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_