



**GOVERNOR'S YOUTH AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAM 2021**



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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Governor of Sint Maarten encourages young people to develop the qualities required to take an active and constructive role in Sint Maarten. The Governor believes that cultivating an attitude of excellence is instrumental to developing such qualities. The Governor's Youth Award for Excellence has as a result been designed to recognize youths, ages 13 through 19, who have performed above and beyond and excelled in specific fields in our community. The categories for which young persons will be recognized are:

1. Education – Youth Award for Excellence in Academics
2. Sports – Youth Award for Excellence in Sports
3. Arts – Youth Award for Excellence in Arts
4. Environmental protection – Youth Award for Excellence in Environment Protection
5. Community service – Youth Award for Excellence in Community Service

The Governor's Youth Award for Excellence will be awarded to youths who have attained a level of excellence in the selected fields greater than that achieved by others or whose performance have been so exceptional that these achievements have identified this youth as being clearly outstanding from others. Winners will receive their Youth Award for Excellence at the Award Ceremony on June 24, 2021.

### **REQUESTS FOR NOMINATIONS**

Educational institutions, sports organizations, creative industries, environmental organizations, youth organizations, faith-based organizations, service clubs, community organizations or others who know a young person who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding achievements are requested to submit nominations using the [nomination form](#). Nominations must contain details and examples with supporting documentation of the achievements and activities of the nominated youth as well as evidence of compliance with eligibility, general and specific criteria established in the award guidelines. Winners are selected based on a recommendation by the evaluation committee. The evaluation committee is comprised of the following multi-disciplinary panel of professionals: Mrs. Oldine Bryson-Pantophlet (Chairperson), Ms. Cassandra Janssen (Secretary), Dr. Rolinda Carter, Mr. Maikel Cornet, Ms. Clara Reyes, Mr. Rueben Thompson and Mrs. Fabiana Vanterpool-Arnell.

Persons and organizations are requested to submit typed nominations electronically via the [nomination form](#) no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2021. For further details on the nomination process please see the Governor of Sint Maarten website <http://www.kabgsxm.com/governor-youthawards.aspx?language=EN> or contact the Cabinet of the Governor of Sint Maarten via email [office@kabgsxm.com](mailto:office@kabgsxm.com). Responses to questions will be provided via the Governor's website.

The Governor reserves the right to accept or reject any nomination or to cancel the nomination process and reject all nominations, at any time prior to presenting the awards. This, without incurring any liability to the nominator or nominee or any obligation to inform the nominator or nominee of the grounds for the decision.

Philipsburg, February 28, 2021

drs. E.B. Holiday

**The Governor of Sint Maarten**



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### **AWARD GUIDELINES**

#### **A. Nomination process**

1. Requests for nominations will be announced on or before March 1, 2021.
2. Nominations must be submitted electronically via the nomination form no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2021.
3. If a person is nominated for more than one category, then a nomination form needs to be completed for each category. Nominations for a person on one form for multiple categories will not be considered.
4. Nominator(s) must initial all pages and sign the nomination forms.
5. Incomplete nomination forms or nomination forms received after the closing date will not be considered.
6. Submitted nomination forms are treated as final and cannot be amended.
7. Nomination submissions will be evaluated by an evaluation committee based on the awards evaluation process as stipulated in the requests for nominations and the award guidelines.
8. The scoring of the nominees' achievements/work is based on a 1-10 scale. With 10 being the highest and 1 the lowest score. The scores for the specific criteria have a weight of 75% and the general criteria 25%.
9. The evaluation committee has the right to recommend the disqualification of any nomination due to poor taste, inappropriateness of content, authenticity or other concerns.
10. Nominators will receive a letter of acknowledgement and appreciation by May 15, 2021.
11. The nomination committee will make a recommendation of the 3 best nominees per award category for the final selection to the Governor no later than May 21, 2021.
12. The nominators of the selected nominees will be notified no later than June 11, 2021.
13. Award winners will be announced at the Award Ceremony on June 24, 2021. The nomination information will be used as part of the award presentation.

#### **B. Required documentation to accompany nomination form (for complete overview see checklist to the nomination form)**

1. Copy of valid Identification (Passport, ID Card, Driver's License).
2. Copy of valid excerpt Civil Registry not older than 1 year.
3. At least two (2) character references (Reference must not be a parent, sibling or guardian). *(A character reference (also known as a personal reference) is a letter written by someone who knows the candidate well and can attest to the character and skills of the candidate. The reference can support the nomination but is not the nominator)*
4. At least (2) category specific references for academic, sports, arts, environment or community service references, respectively, depending on the nomination. *(A specific reference is a letter written by someone who knowledgeable in the field for which the person is being nominated. The reference can speak to the capabilities and to the contributions and qualifications of the nominee. This can be the nominator but it is not required. The person must provide details that can clarify whether he/she is an expert in the same category of the Nominee.)*
5. A high resolution video pitch of 45-60 seconds by the nominator
6. Quantitative and Qualitative information should be provided to support the nomination. *This should consist of digital information linking the nominator to the category nominated for. For*



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*example, but not limited to, high resolution images (JPEG), high resolution video (AVI), newspaper articles etcetera.*

### **C. Eligibility**

1. Nominees must be legal residents of Sint Maarten for at least the past 5 years.
2. Individual nominees must be 13 years of age and not older than 19 years by December 31, 2021.
3. Nominee may not be the child, sibling or guardian of the nominator.
4. Nominees must be of good character (see character references).
5. Nominees qualifications must meet the specific eligibility criteria as listed per category.

### **D. General Award Criteria (weight 25% of score)**

1. Nominee activities and achievements inspires and motivates young persons.
2. Nominee shows determination in pursuit of aspirations.
3. Nominee shows resilience in overcoming challenges.

### **E. Specific Award Criteria by Category (weight 75% of score)**

#### **1. Education – Youth Award for Excellence in Academics**

The education award recognizes the commitment and outstanding academic achievement of top students for overall academic performance. To be eligible nominees must have a minimum grade average of 8 (or equivalent for alternative grading systems)<sup>1</sup> during the current and past school year. Eligible students will be evaluated based on the conditions and criteria specified in the request for nominations and the award guidelines. The specific award criteria for academics include:

- J Consistent outstanding achievement in academic performance during the current and past school year (including pre-exam and exam class) based on individual subject (mathematics, languages, sciences, social studies) scores and overall average.
- J Outstanding commitment, dedication and motivation to learning as demonstrated by school records in terms of attendance or other verifiable quantitative and qualitative information.
- J Demonstrated respect for teachers and fellow students.

#### **2. Sports – Youth Award for Excellence in Sports**

The Youth Award for Excellence in Sports recognizes athletes who have excelled at any sport or sporting level (scholastic, national, international). To be eligible nominees must at a minimum have won a championship during the last two years. Eligible athletes will be evaluated based on the conditions and criteria specified in the request for nominations and the award guidelines. The specific award criteria for sports include:

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<sup>1</sup> The minimum grade average of 8 is based on the Dutch school grading system. Nominators of students from schools with alternative grading systems are required to provide a signed equivalence declaration from the management of the relevant school.



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- J Excels or is a high performer in sports resulting in championships in national or top 3 finishes (gold, silver or bronze) in international competition/events during the past 2 years.
- J Excels or is a high performer in sports demonstrated through top individual statistics in his/her sport or being starter on and a major contributor to team (school, local team or national selection) during the past 2 years.
- J Demonstrate and promote good sports values, through commitment to training and respect for fellow athletes, trainers, officials and the sport.

### 3. Art – Youth Award for Excellence in Arts

The Youth Award for Excellence in Arts recognizes outstanding achievements of young artists for a piece of work or body of work in the performing, visual and/or literary art, ranging but not limited to music, dance, drama, painting, sculpture, poetry or writing. To be eligible nominees must at a minimum finished in the top 3 of a national or international event. Eligible artists will be evaluated based on the conditions and criteria specified in the request for nominations and the award guidelines. The specific award criteria for arts include:

- Ñ Outstanding artistic achievement as a result of top performances/work and/or recognition at local, regional or international competitions/events during the past 2 years.
- Ñ Strength of the artistic message portrayed through work.
- Ñ Quality of the work demonstrated through the aesthetics, technique, originality, personal style or creativity of work/performance.

### 4. Environmental Protection – Youth Award for Excellence in Environmental Care

The Youth Award for Excellence in Environmental Care recognizes an individual for their positive involvement in environmental protection activities. Nominations could be made for any individual making positive contributions to the preservation of our natural resources. To be eligible nominees must at a minimum have participated in a significant environmental protection program during the past two years. Eligible young persons will be evaluated based on the conditions and criteria specified in the request for nominations and the award guidelines. The specific award criteria for environmental protection include:

- J Outstanding environmental protection activities as acknowledged by a special recognition/distinction.
- J Committed to environmental protection activities as demonstrated by consistent engagement in preserving our natural resources (multiple activities) during at least two years and level of effort as demonstrated by number of hours spent.
- J Quality and Level of impact the work is having on our community demonstrated by the type and number of activities and by raising awareness and promoting environmental protection activities among peers and in the community.

### 5. Community service – Youth Award for Excellence in Community Service

The Youth Award for Excellence in Community Service recognizes young persons who are making significant contributions to Sint Maarten through their time, action, talent and dedication. To be eligible nominees must consistently demonstrate qualities of selflessness and compassion through involvement in a significant community service program for a minimum of the past two years. Eligible young persons will be



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evaluated based on the conditions and criteria specified in the request for nominations and the award guidelines. The specific award criteria for community service include:

- ) Outstanding community service activities as acknowledged by a special recognition/distinction.
- ) Commitment to help meet the needs of others, of our community and of our environment through sustained or consistent involvement in volunteer service and level of input as demonstrated by number of hours spent.
- ) Quality and level of impact the service is making for or made to our community as demonstrated by type of activities, number of people served and number of activities.

Philipsburg, February 28, 2021

**The Governor of Sint Maarten**