



National Leader of the Year – Review of Application Process

The National Awards Committee reviews personal essays, a resume, an unofficial transcript, and a letter of recommendation when considering applications for the six National Leader of the Year awards. All materials are submitted through Kaleidoscope, an online scholarship and award application platform.

- Application opens: **Saturday, Oct. 15 at 8 a.m. EST**
- Application closes: **Thursday, Dec. 15 at 11:59 p.m. EST**

Note to advisors: Beginning Fall 2022, there is no longer a requirement for students to be designated Circle Leader of the Year prior to applying for NLOY. All undergraduate members are eligible to apply for NLOY honors. Multiple students from one institution may also apply. A student is limited to receiving one award.

Application Details

All applicants will complete the following information:

- OΔK information
- Contact information
- Demographic information (optional)
- Educational background
- Two written statements of no more than 500 words each:
 - Please describe your life experiences, and how your background and personal values have led to your current goals.
 - Outline your career goals. How has your collegiate leadership experience impacted these goals? How do you plan to represent the OΔK values (collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, service) in your professional life?
- Document upload: resume and unofficial transcript (required); portfolio and links to other work (optional)

Then, applicants can select up to six awards to apply for:

- Gen. Russell E. Dougherty National Leader of the Year

- *This award is designed to honor the top student leader within Omicron Delta Kappa's undergraduate membership. This person often has multiple, significant leadership positions, and through their leadership has created positive change on their campus and in the community.*
- **Leader of the Year - Academics and Research**
 - *Leadership in this pillar can be demonstrated by holding positions in academic organizations, delivering research presentations, submitting research publications, participation in undergraduate research projects, teaching, or tutoring.*
- **Leader of the Year - Service to Campus and Community**
 - *Leadership in this pillar may be demonstrated through serving in student government or other collegiate organizations, creating or leading a community service program, or other involvement in campus-wide initiatives such as task forces and committees.*
- **Leader of the Year - Creative and Performing Arts**
 - *Leadership in this pillar may be demonstrated through serving as the director or creator of an arts production, leading an arts-related student organization, or curating student art shows.*
- **Leader of the Year - Communications**
 - *Leadership in this pillar could include, but is not limited to, serving as an editor for a campus media outlet (newspaper, radio/TV, and/or yearbook), leading marketing efforts for organizations, or developing podcasts, blogs and social media to support causes important to students and the campus.*
- **Leader of the Year - Athletics**
 - *Leadership in this pillar may be demonstrated through serving as a team captain, instructor, coach, or trainer, as well as other leadership positions, such as a role on a Student Athlete Advisory Council.*

Award-Specific Written Statements

Depending on which awards the applicant has opted to apply for, they will then need to complete additional written statements specific to each award. Each written statement has a limit of 500 words.

- *Gen. Russell E. Dougherty National Leader of the Year Application – Written Statements*
 - Please describe your most significant leadership experiences, and why those experiences have been unique, impactful, and outstanding.
 - Describe the changes or impact within your campus as a result of your collegiate leadership experience. How have you improved the collegiate experience for your fellow students, both present and future?
 - The five OΔK values are collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service. Please describe how you have demonstrated these values through your collegiate experience.

- *National Leader of the Year Pillar Award – Written Statements*
 - Please describe your most significant examples of collegiate leadership experience within this pillar.
 - Describe the impact you feel you have made within this pillar on your campus. How has your leadership improved the experience of other students and created change within the campus community?

Recommendations

Applicants do not submit the letter of recommendation. Instead, they supply the name and email address of a reference, who will then receive an email from Kaleidoscope asking them to submit their recommendation letter.

Please note that each award application requires a reference – for example, if a member applies for both the Dougherty National Leader of the Year award and National Leader of the Year for Academics and Research, two (2) references would be required.

While Kaleidoscope will send reminders if the recommendations has not been submitted, it is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to check in with their references to ensure this is completed on time. **Applications are not considered complete and will not be reviewed until the letter of recommendation is submitted by the reference.** Applicants can view the status of their application within Kaleidoscope, including whether their recommendations have been uploaded.

If the references run into any technical issues with Kaleidoscope, they should reach out to help@mykaleidoscope.com, and then programs@odk.org for assistance.

Selection

Applicants will be notified of their status prior to the end of spring 2023, and should check the email address they provided in the application. Reminders from Kaleidoscope to complete the application before the deadline will come from help@mykaleidoscope.com, so be sure to allow emails from that address, or keep an eye on spam/junk folders.

Have questions?

Applicants seeking more information can email programs@odk.org.